CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Course Syllabus - Math 360 - Algebraic Structures I
2:00 - 2:50 pm - MWF - Hertz 121

Professor: Dr. Jane Whitmire
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Phone: 509-963-2268
Office: Black Hall 225-32
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-10:50 am, Thursday 2:00-2:50 pm
Textbook: Introduction to Abstract Algebra
Author: J.T. Moore, Academic Press 1975

Course Description

This is an advanced college mathematics course in algebra. Topics include set theory, induction, functions, semigroups, groups, rings, ideals, fields, homomorphism, and isomorphism.

Teaching Philosophy

Abstract Algebra is great stuff, but given its emphasis on proof and abstraction, can be challenging. It is therefore extremely important that you do lots of practice problems. Class activities will aim to provide opportunities for shared discussion and exercise of topics. However, one should not assume that attendance, participation, and completed homework assignments are all that is required to adequately prepare for exams. Additional reading and working through unassigned problems may be necessary to develop understanding.

Homework

There will be 12 homework assignments. Each is due two class periods from the date it is assigned. For example, homework given on Monday will be due the following Friday. Homework assigned on Wednesday will be due the following Monday. Finally, homework assigned on Friday is due the following Wednesday.

Homework must be in neat, legible, with complete sentences where appropriate. All homework will be completed in pencil, on one side of the paper, and in numerical order. The professor reserves the right to refuse homework assignments that does not meet this criteria. Late homework will never receive more than half credit, but the 2 lowest homework scores will be dropped from the final tally of points. If unable to attend on the due date, have a friend bring the assignment or turn it in early.

Final Exam

The final MUST be taken to pass the course. The final is comprehensive, covers all material discussed in class, and is to be taken at the time scheduled by Central Washington University: Friday March 16, 2012 from noon to 2:00 p.m.

Quizzes

There will be 12 quizzes. Each quiz will be administered at random during class. Quiz material will review lecture or previously assigned reading. No make-up quizzes will be offered, but the 2 lowest scores will be dropped from the tally of total course points. Quizzes not only measure mathematical understanding, but also provide an assessment of attendance and student ability to keep pace with the course. Another benefit is the feedback the professor receives from each quiz. This helps to analyze overall class understanding of the content prior to critical exam dates.

Exams

Exam dates are Friday January 27, 2012 and Friday February 24, 2011. Exams are comprehensive and cover all material discussed in class since the previous exam. Completing the exam in the time allotted is part of the exam. Taking an exam is an important part of the course. Nevertheless, scheduling complications sometimes occur. An alternate procedure for taking an exam due to a scheduling complication must be arranged in advance. No make-up exams will be given.

Grading

Everyone is graded the same way. NO EXCEPTIONS. Letter grades A/A-/B+/B/B-/C+/C/C-/D+/D/D-/F are based on a strict percentages: 93-100/90-92.9/87-89.9/83-86.9/80-82.9/77-79.9/73-76.9/70-72.9/67-69.9/63-66.9/60-62.9/BELOW 60 cutoff. Grades are not rounded either up or down.

Problems are graded by the clear and evident content of what is actually written down and nothing more. Your solution to a problem must clearly show a grasp of relevant concepts as well as a correct result for full credit. Organization counts. Neatness counts. If an approach is specified in a problem, then that approach must be used (as indicated by procedures written on the paper) in solving the problem. If no approach is specified, then any valid method is acceptable.

The course grade can be calculated as points divided by total possible:

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\begin{aligned}
12\ Quizzes &\longrightarrow 100 \\
12\ Homework &\longrightarrow 200 \\
2\ Exams &\longrightarrow 300 \\
Final &\longrightarrow 400
\end{aligned}
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Special Needs Statement

As soon as possible, students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should provide a copy of their "Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments". Eligible students without this form should contact the Disability Support Services Office by visiting Bouillon 205, emailing dssrecept@cwu.edu, or calling the phone number 509-963-2171.