

Math 252 – Abstract Algebra I

Spring 2007

Course Procedures

Professor: Josh Laison

Old Music Hall 100, x3480, laison@stolaf.edu

Office Hours:

Monday 3:00–4:00

Tuesday 2:30–3:30

Wednesday 3:00–4:00

Thursday 1:30–2:30

Friday 9:30–10:30

Class Meetings: Science Center 184, 2:00–2:55 Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Text: Contemporary Abstract Algebra, 6th edition, Gallian

Course Web Page: <http://www.stolaf.edu/people/jlaison/algebra.htm>

Moodle Page: <http://moodle.stolaf.edu/>

Topics Covered:

We will cover Chapters 0 through 15, and possibly Chapter 16 of Gallian. We'll spend around 6 days of class on Chapter 0 (including an introduction to \LaTeX), and then 1–3 days of class on each chapter after that.

Grading:

Standard Problems (8)	25%
Writing Problems (8)	25%
Individual Problems (8)	25%
Quizzes (8)	25%
Total	100%

Homework Assignments:

There will be three types of homework in this course. You will have an assignment of each type due approximately once every week and a half, not all at the same time. For the standard and written problems, please talk to your classmates and me as often as you like. There are no “stupid questions,” but it is foolish to become frustrated about a problem because you're working on it too long by yourself. Collaboration is an integral part of mathematics, and you should take advantage of the resources you have available to you.

Standard Problems: These problems will be designed to enhance your understanding of the topics covered in class. They will be graded by the course grader, who will be checking only for correctness. You are encouraged to work together on these problems in study groups. However, please write your solutions to these problems in your own words.

Written Problems: These problems will be designed to improve your writing of mathematics, one of the goals of the course. They will be graded by me, and I will give two grades, one for mathematical correctness, and one for clarity and style of writing. These two grades will each count for half of your total grade. Once again, you are encouraged to work together on these problems in study groups. However, please write your solutions to these problems in your own words. A “copy and paste” of someone else’s written work constitutes a violation of the honor code.

Writing mathematics well is a skill that takes time to develop, so you will be allowed and encouraged to rewrite your written problem assignments and resubmit them for a better grade, as many as two times.

In addition, all of your solutions to these problems should be written in the L^AT_EX word-processing application. I will spend one day of class introducing you to this software. After that, please feel free to come to me with any questions about its use.

Individual Problems: No special word processing is necessary for these problems (you may write the solutions by hand if you wish). Writing style and clarity of presentation is still important on these problems, but will not get a distinct grade. You may not consult any person about these problems other than me. You may not consult any source about these problems other than your textbook, your notes, and class handouts. These problems take the place of exams in this course. Please treat them accordingly.

Quizzes: The quizzes will be short and straightforward, testing whether you understand the basic ideas of each few days of class. They will each take about twenty minutes of class time.

Late Assignments and Missed Classes:

1. Do not turn in late assignments.
2. Do not miss class.
3. If for some reason you are unable to attend class or turn in an assignment, please let me know *as soon as possible*, preferably *before* the missed class or assignment. The longer you wait to tell me, the less sympathetic I will become. The worst is to never tell me about it at all. (This doesn’t mean that I don’t accept late homeworks– it means that I’d like to hear about them from you first.)

Honor Code:

on standard and written problems: You are encouraged to talk to others, but you should write your solutions to these problems in your own words.

on individual problems: You may talk to me, but no other person. You may use your textbook and notes from class, but no other sources.

on quizzes: You may talk to me for clarification of a problem, but no other person. You may use no written sources.

Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (see Ruth Bolstad, Student Disability Services Specialist) in the Academic Support Center. All such discussions will be confidential.