

Math 251 – Number Theory

Block 7 2004

Course Procedures

Professor: Josh Laison
Tutt 201, x6544

Class Meetings: Quiz time: 9:30-10:00, Class time: 10:00-11:30 and 1:00-2:30, Monday through Friday, Tutt 101

Office Hours: 8:00-9:30, Monday through Friday, Tutt 201

Textbook: Chapter Zero, Carol Schumacher

Course Web Page: <http://faculty1.coloradocollege.edu/~jlaison/number.htm>

Grading:

Written problems (8)	25%
Honor problems (8)	25%
Quizzes (16)	25%
Class participation and presentations	25%
Total	100%

The Textbook:

The text is probably different from other math texts you have seen. You will notice that most of the theorems in the textbook are not proven, and many of the examples are not worked out. Your job will be to go through and fill in the gaps– in fact, this activity will take up a substantial portion of our class time.

Homework:

There will be four types of homework in this course.

Reading: Since you will be spending a lot of class time working with classmates, it is very important that everyone has read and thought about the relevant sections of the textbook *before* class begins. This is the purpose of the daily quizzes. You are not expected to understand everything in the reading perfectly, but you are expected think about it in preparation for discussing it in class.

Written Problems: The written problems will be due every other day. You may work together on these problems; in fact, you may have the opportunity to work on them in class. However, please write your solutions to these problems in your own words. In addition, all of your solutions to these problems should be written in the L^AT_EX word-processing application. We will talk more about this in class.

Part of the goal of this course is for you to learn to speak and write mathematics well. Therefore it is not enough to submit a written solution which includes the key ideas, or the final “answer.” The clarity and form of your solution are just as important, and will count for half of your grade.

Oral Problems: I will routinely ask members of the class to prepare solutions to problems to present in class. Sometimes the whole class will be asked to work on the same set of problems; sometimes they will be divided up by groups or by individual. You will probably find that, although giving an oral presentation on a problem seems easier than writing up the solution, you will have to think just as carefully about these problems as you do about the written ones. In fact, it would probably help to write out your argument beforehand, so you have things straight in your mind.

Honor Problems: These are problems that I will ask you to write up to turn in. No special word processing is necessary for these problems (you may write the solutions by hand if you wish) although writing style and clarity of presentation is still very important. 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 designed to test whether you have done the reading for the day. If you are familiar with the definitions and basic ideas in the reading, the quizzes should be quick and painless.

Attendance and Class Participation:

Since in-class activities will be such a large component of the course, the portion of your grade for attendance and class participation is correspondingly high. The class will cease to function if many people are absent or disengaged. Please support your classmates by coming to class every day prepared, thinking about other students' oral problems so that you can follow their presentations, and designing your own oral presentations so as to benefit your classmates.

During a classmates' presentation, you are not off the hook. Your classmate is relying on you to help them if they have difficulty. You should ask questions if you are confused, make helpful suggestions, and learn from their presentation. Above all, treat the presenter with respect. Listen to what they have to say, and do not make disparaging comments. "I don't quite understand what you did in that step," is appropriate, "You didn't explain that well," or "You're wrong" are not.

Honor Code:

on the written and oral problems: You may, and are encouraged to, discuss the homework with anyone, get help from your textbook, notes, computer algebra systems, etc. However, your submitted written work should be your own.

on the honor problems: You may consult your text and notes. You may not discuss the honor problems with anyone other than me.

on the quizzes: You may not consult any source other than me.