Math 300 – Introduction to Abstract Mathematics
Section 61311; Fall 2004; MWF 10:10-11:00, Ayres 309A

Professor: Dr. Chuck Collins
To contact me:
- In Person: Ayres 312B, Office Hours: MWF 9-10 and by appointment
- By Phone: 974-4269 (my office), 974-2461 (math office, leave message)
- By Note: mail box (Ayres 120), under office door (Ayres 312B)
- By Computer: e-mail ccollins@math.utk.edu
- By FAX: 974-6576

Course Information:
Textbook: Introduction to Abstract Mathematics, by William Wade. This is available for $8.00 at Graphic Creations located at 1809 Lake Avenue; be sure that you have this semester’s copy since it has changed some from last semester.

Web Resources: http://www.math.utk.edu/~ccollins, click on the link to Math 300. Contains course schedule, homework, solutions and other resources.

Course Goals: (1) Learn how to read, write, create and understand mathematical proofs. (2) Learn some mathematical results that form the basis for more advanced mathematics courses.

Course Work:
Problems (35%)
I plan on assigning 3-6 problems each class period; most due the next class.
There are two types of problems: proofs and computations. Proofs will be graded out of 5 points. You’ll earn 5 points for a completely correct proof, 4 for one with a few technical errors, 3 for one with more errors and 0 for one with any logical or massive technical errors. As the semester passes, I'll expect you to be better at proofs and will expect more for the higher scores. Computations will be graded out of 2 points, earning 2 points for a correct answer, 0 for an incorrect one.
You will see or do almost every problem in the text, plus others. Some you will hand in, some I will grade, some you’ll do in class on the board, some we’ll do together and some I’ll do for you. Problems can be done on the board for extra points (more about this later). Some problems will be selected to be put in a portfolio that I will check on occasion. These problems will have to be written out carefully and correctly.

Exams (45%)
We will have 3 exams during the semester. Each will be announced at least one week in advance.

Final (20%)
The final is from 8:00am–10:00am on Thursday, Dec. 9. It will be comprehensive.

Scoring 90% in this course will guarantee you an A, 85% a B+, 80% a B, 75% a C+, 70% a C, etc. I may lower these numbers slightly, but do not depend on it.

Group Work: I expect the final version of your work to be your own. You may ask other students questions about topics from class, and you can discuss the problems in general. Once you start writing out a solution you must do it without any help (i.e. no copying). The first suspected offense will get a warning, after that
the work of both parties will get a 0. Persistent copying will be dealt with more severely. (see the Honor Code, Hilltopics 2004-05, pg. 11)

How to Succeed:

• Attend class and do the assigned work. The class-time and work provide a basis for understanding the material.

• If something confuses you in class, ask me to clarify it. If it still isn’t clear, ask again.

• When you are confused outside class: read the book (twice), especially the worked examples, look over the notes, and, if you are still confused, ask someone who understands (me or another student). Write down what you were confused about and, when you understand, write down the clarification. Try to do other related problems to test your understanding. In the end you are responsible for learning the material.

• If you get behind and aren’t catching up, let me know as soon as possible. We can then try to work something out.

• Schedule at least two hours (maybe more) every day that the class meets to do homework and review material. This course requires steady work.

• As you do the work, keep notes for the exams. Then during the in-class review ask any remaining questions. The night before the exam, review your notes and get a good night’s sleep. Exams are important so you must be aware of them all the time and be able to do your best on them.

Important Policies:

Homework Policy: Your work must be presented in a clear and readable manner. If it can’t be read, it won’t be graded.

Late-Work Policy: Late work is not accepted without prior arrangement or proof of emergency. If you are going to be late with some work, let me know as soon as you can.

Make-Up Policy: Make-ups are not given without prior arrangement with me or proof of emergency.

Attendance Policy: You should be in class every time it meets. If not you may miss some new or important material or miss out on a chance to earn some points.

Extra-Credit Policy: Any extra-credit work will be announced to the entire class. If you need a certain grade in this course, do the work on every assignment.

Withdrawal Policy: You can drop this class with no mark by Aug. 27, with a W by Sept. 28 and with a WP/WF by Nov. 9. Consult the timetable or catalog or see me if you have any questions.

Disability Statement: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library at 974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.