Syllabus
UTK – M307 – Hons Introduction to Abstract Mathematics
Spring 2009, Jochen Denzler, MWF 12:20–1:10, Aconda 113

Textbook: Instead of a boringly glossy textbook, we use the Department Notes available at Graphic Creations. These notes do NOT come with a CD, nor with multicolor print. They are meant for careful reading. You are actually meant to work with definitions given there, so you need to memorize these definitions.

Course design: Apart from some explanations I give in lecture form, you are expected to present solutions at the blackboard. The rule is that I may challenge any statement you make there, even if it's correct. In that case, your job is to defend it. Likewise the audience is encouraged to ask questions and make suggestions.

Your grade will depend on your written homework and the exams. Hwk and three in-class exams count $\frac{2}{11}$ each; the comprehensive final counts $\frac{3}{11}$.

Class presentations and participation will be used as a tie-breaker in borderline cases. The fact that I will not use your class presentations more heavily in determining your grade should not be misunderstood. The reason is simply that I want to avoid a conflict of interest between teaching and challenging you during these presentations and grading you. Class presentations are a crucial part of the course and will influence your grade indirectly through the learning experience.

This is a course about clear reasoning and good presentation in technical language. Mathematical life is tricky, and I can't let myself be restrained from asking trick questions by the need of grading you at the very same time.

Class Attendance: For the same reasons, I expect regular class attendance in this course. 4 absences are 'free', every further absence needs to be either excused or will lower your course percentage by 1.5%. Late by awkward campus commute between back-to-back classes is a valid excuse.

Written homework problems: Arguments have to be presented clearly and in a formally correct way. There will not be much partial credit: Each hwk problem is worth 0,1, or 2 points, no splitting. Please leave ample margin for grading comments. (Let's say, start with 1/3 of page width blank, and adjust later as experience indicates useful.)

Office hours: For the moment, let's say MWF 10:15-11:30, T 2:15-3:15. These may change later, and depending on need I may add more; refer to my home-page and announcements if this happens. I accomodate drop-in when possible, and you may also schedule appointments.

My office is **Aconda 410 B, phone 4-5325**. Take the 'tower 2' staircase, b/c other towers my lead to a dead end that doesn't connect to my office. Email is **denzler@math.utk.edu**, but I may not read it for half a day or for an entire weekend.

Disabilities: Students who may need formal accommodations based on documented disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services 974-6087 in Hoskins Library. Independently any student who feels he/she may need arrangements based on the impact of a disability is welcome to contact me to discuss specific needs privately. Note that my office, like all of Aconda Court other than its first floor, is not handicap-accessible, due to the absence of elevators. The procedure is that faculty will meet students who cannot access the stairs downstairs.