

## Syllabus for Math 551, Fall 2017

**Instructor Name:** Dustin Cartwright

**Office Hours and Location:** M 2:25-3:25, W 1:20-2:20, Th 1:30-3:00 and by appointment, Ayres 210

**Email:** cartwright@utk.edu

**Course web page:** Further information will be posted on the Canvas page for this course.

**Learning Environment:** I expect you to attend every lecture, pay attention, and participate in discussions. During lectures, you should not be using your laptop, cell phone, or any other electronic devices.

**Text:** *Abstract Algebra* by Dummit and Foote.

**Course Requirements, Assessment and Evaluations:** Your grade will consist of:

- 30% homework
- 20% in-class midterm
- 20% take-home midterm
- 30% final exam (in-class)

Homework will be due almost every week, at the beginning of each Friday class. If circumstances prevent you from attending class that day, you may email me a scanned (not photographed) copy of your homework by the beginning of class. Homework assignments will be posted on Canvas the Friday before their due date. Your homework solutions should acknowledge anyone you worked with or any resources you used in coming up with the solution, and you should always write your answer in your own words.

All exams will be cumulative.

Each component of your grade will have its own grade scale. For the exams, this grade scale will be announced when the exam is returned. The grade scale for the course will be determined by averaging together the component grade scales, according to the above percentages, and this grade scale will be used to determine your course letter grade.

**Test Environment Conditions:** During the in-class exams, you will be allowed nothing except your pencil or pen. During the take-home exam, you

may refer only to your own written notes, and the course textbook, but not any other resources, such as other books, the Internet, or other people.

**Make up Policy:** No late homework will be accepted. Instead, I will drop the lowest homework score.

Accommodations for missed exams will only be provided for valid, documented excuses, such as a medical emergency, which should be communicated as soon as possible. Accommodation may take the form of a make-up or by having the final exam replace that component in your grade, as appropriate for the circumstances.

If you have a religious obligation which conflicts with one of the requirements of this course, please let me know by the second week of class.

**How to be Successful in this Course:** Go over the lecture material after class, either your own notes, or the textbook. Start the homework early. Use other resources with your homework, but use them to help you learn, not just complete the assignment. Go to office hours. When you get your exams back, go over your results and understand why you got the answers you did.

You are *strongly encouraged* to work with other students in the course on your homework. You will find that your peers know things which can help you solve problems when you would otherwise be stuck for a long time. When you have a partial solution, they will help you refine your ideas and find gaps in your arguments. Even just the process of explaining your ideas to someone else will help you understand the material better. There is a discussion thread on Canvas set up to help you find collaboration groups.

**Course Outline:** This course will cover groups and rings. I expect you to be familiar with the material in Chapters 1-3 of the textbook, which I will quickly review. We will then cover most of Chapters 4-9, skipping some special topics.

**Schedule:**

- Monday, Oct. 2, in-class midterm
- Wednesday, Oct. 25, take-home midterm distributed
- Friday, Oct. 27, take-home midterm due
- Friday, Dec. 8, 8am-10am, final exam

**Campus Syllabus**

*If the instructor finds it necessary to make informational changes ( e.g. office hours, schedule adjustments) due to students' needs*

*or unforeseen circumstances, students will be notified in writing/email of any such changes.*