

Math 335: Abstract Algebra I

Instructor: Bob Milnikel

Office/Phone: RBH 317 x5905

Office Hours: Mondays 11:10-12:00 noon; Tuesdays 10:10-11:00 a.m.; Wednesdays 12:10-1:00 p.m.; Thursdays 1:10-2:00 p.m.; Fridays 2:10-3:00 p.m. **(and by appointment!)**

Textbooks: *A First Course in Abstract Algebra*, 7th edition, John B. Fraleigh

Course Web Page: <http://www2.kenyon.edu/depts/math/milnikel/abstract>

Room & Time: RBH 203, 1:10-2:00 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Syllabus: We will cover chapters 1-6, 8-11, 13-16, 34, 36, and 37 of Fraleigh's text.

Written Homework: As with any math class, *homework is the most important aspect of the course*. Written homework will be due as indicated on the web site, approximately 20 times during the semester. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the specified date. You may hand in two assignments one class session late without penalty, but no other exceptions will be made, even for illness (short of, say, hospitalization). If you will be missing class due to a planned excused absence (such as a sporting event), your homework should be submitted before the absence.

Collaboration on homework assignments is encouraged, but only to the extent of a general discussion of computations and strategy. The written work you submit must be your own. In other words, do not work out the details of the presentation of a proof or other solution with a group; work through the ideas together if you wish to, but figure out the best way to word the presentation on your own.

In most homework assignments, some problems will be marked with an asterisk*. These are the only problems which need to be written up and submitted. However, you are responsible for solving all problems on the assignment. As an incentive, I will put at least one non-asterisked homework problem from each assignment on a quiz, verbatim.

Your homework should be reasonably neat and legible, with the problem number clearly indicated. Explanations should be written in complete sentences. This will count toward the grade for the homework assignment. You are encouraged but not required to \LaTeX your homework.

In-Class Presentations Roughly one day a week will be focused on student presentations of problems. You will be expected to be prepared to present all of the problems assigned for that day, unless otherwise specified. Because I will randomize who presents each given problem, not everyone in the class will necessarily present the same number of times, but I reserve the right to weight the randomization process to make things at least reasonably equitable.

Tests: There will be two midterms consisting of both in-class portions (currently scheduled for Monday 26 September and Monday 7 November) and take-home portions. My current plan – subject to change – is to distribute the take-home portions on the Fridays preceding the in-class portions and to collect them on the Wednesdays following. The take-home portions will be weighted to be worth roughly 2-3 times the value of the in-class portions. Details will be announced closer to the exam dates.

The final exam will be a take-home due absolutely no later than 11:30 a.m. on Friday 16 December (the end of our scheduled exam time).

There will also be several short quizzes, usually asking for statements and proofs of one or two important theorems, announced in advance. While one could ace these quizzes through brute-force memorization, their intention is to encourage you to understand the proofs well enough to be able to write them in your own words.

Tests and quizzes may be missed only in case of officially excused absences. If the absence is planned, the test must be made up before the scheduled date.

Grades: Your grade will be based on the written homework, presentations, quizzes, the midterms, and the final exam. The percentages are as follows:

Written homework:	20%
Presentations, Class Participation, and Quizzes:	15%
Two midterms:	40%
Final Exam:	25%

Academic Honesty: In general, the rules set forth in the 2011-2012 Course of Study apply. Presenting the work of others as your own is strictly prohibited. In the case of homework, you may collaborate with others in discussing how a problem may be solved, but your write-up must be your own. If you submit work that contains the ideas or words of someone else, then you must provide proper citation. Assistance may not be given nor received (other than by the instructor) on any exam associated with this course, except where explicitly allowed by the instructor.

Learning Disabilities: If you have a disability that requires an accommodation in this class, please feel free to discuss your concerns with me, but you should also consult Ms. Erin Salva, (Coordinator of Disability Services; Office of the Dean for Academic Advising, x5453) as soon as possible. Ms. Salva, in consultation with the L.E.A.R.N. committee, has the authority and the expertise to decide on the accommodations that are proper for your disability. Though I am happy to help you in any way I can, I cannot make any accommodations for learning (or other) disabilities without proper authorization from Ms. Salva.