

ABSTRACT ALGEBRA II
SPRING SEMESTER 2010
Course Syllabus
Math 435
MWF 12:10-1:00 Hayes 203

Instructor: Selin Kalaycioglu, Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics

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I am eager to meet with you outside of class for additional help. I have an open door policy, which means that if you can not make it to any of the office hours you are always very welcome to come in to my office whenever my door is open. Please take advantage of this policy.

Required Textbook:

A first course in Abstract Algebra, J. B. Fraleigh, 7th ed.

Goals:

This course is a continuation of Math 335, Abstract Algebra I and it will focus on the theory of rings and fields. We will cover most of the chapters 4, 5, 6 and 9 in the textbook.

Daily Homework:

Homework assignments will typically include a mixture of computation and proof writing. Computations will serve to develop problem-solving ability while providing the motivation and intuition necessary to understand the theory of the course. Proof writing will serve to develop the presentation skills necessary to communicate rigorous mathematical ideas to others.

Throughout the semester you will also be assigned homework problems where you have to get your hands dirty with the free computer algebra system software GAP.

Homework Policy:

Homework is due at the START of class on the assigned due date, unless I specify otherwise. Late homework will not be accepted. If you know you will be missing class for some reason (e.g., an athletic event), turn in your assignment BEFORE you leave. Under extenuating circumstances extensions may be granted, but this should be discussed with me in advance.

Your homework will be evaluated on neatness, completeness, and correctness.

Group work is encouraged, but assignments must be written up INDIVIDUALLY unless specified otherwise. Copied work is considered to be an academic infraction even if the work was discussed in collaboration with a classmate before write-up (see Academic Honesty below).

Daily Reading:

Actively reading the textbook before each lesson is a necessity. Come to class prepared with questions and comments for discussion. There will not be enough time to cover all aspects of each topic during class. You will still be held responsible for the material.

Exams:

Each exam will have a take home part and an in-class part. The take home component of the hourly exams will be worth twice as much as the in-class portion of the exams (100 pts and 50 pts), and you will choose a 72-hour period over which to work on the take-home portion. Each component of the final exam will be worth 150 points.

Midterm Exams The exact date of each exam will be announced at least a week in advance.
Final Exam May 12, 6:30-9:30 pm. Final will be comprehensive and 3 hours long.

Grading and Evaluation Criteria:

Final grades will be determined based on the performance in the following components.

Component	Percentage
Homework	30
Presentation/Participation/Attendance	10
2 Midterm Exams	30 (15% each)
Final Exam	30

Attendance, Participation and Late Policy:

Learning mathematics is greatly enhanced through active participation in mathematical discussions and small group activities. To fully take advantage of these modes of learning, it is essential that you attend class. You will be expected to attend and be on time for each class meeting. Please make an effort to come to class on time. A student who misses a class meeting will be held responsible for the material covered and any assignments or announcements that were given. Due to the nature of the course, a failure to fulfill these expectations will result in a lower course grade.

No make-up exams will be given without justified and documented excuses. *No work will be accepted late.*

You are also expected to present problems to the class regularly. This is a part of your grade. When you present problems to the class, please give generous explanations, both verbally and in writing. Apply high standards of presentation to yourself that you would like to see in your professor or other presenters.

Other important facts:

Computer and Cell Phone Use Policy in the Classroom: Inappropriate use of computers in the classroom is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Inappropriate use of computers is anything unrelated to the classwork. Some examples are checking/writing e-mail, surfing the net, playing games, instant messaging etc. Please make sure that your cell phone is off during the class time.

Academic Honesty: The rules set forth in the 2009-2010 Course of Study apply to all aspects of this course. In general, any work submitted for credit must result directly from your own understanding, thoughts, and ideas. Presenting the work of others as your own is strictly prohibited. Though you are encouraged to work with other students on outside assignments, it is understood that every piece of written or computer-generated work that you submit must finally be your own. If you submit work that contains the ideas or words of someone else, then you must provide proper citation. Assistance can not be given nor received (other than by the instructor) on any quiz, or exam associated with this course, except where explicitly allowed by the instructor. In the case of a group assignment, all members of the group should contribute equally to writing the final product. And every member of the group is responsible for the content of the entire paper, not just the section(s) that are written by that person. Don't put your name on a paper written by others. For further information, consult the student handbook or ask your instructor.

Disabilities: If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, feel free to discuss your concerns in private with me, but you should also consult the Office of Disability Services at 5453. The Coordinator of Disability Services, Erin Salva (salvae@kenyon.edu), will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are appropriate. (All information and documentation of disability is confidential.) It is Ms. Salva that 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 special accommodations without proper authorization from Ms. Salva.

If you are an athlete or part of an organization that travels: Attendance and participation are critically important for this class. If you are an athlete (e.g., a soccer player, a football player, field hockey player, swimmer, etc.), or if you belong to a group or club that travels (e.g., the Debate Team), and if you know you will be missing more than three classes, it is very important that you meet with me early in the semester to let me know which classes you will be missing and how you plan to meet class deadlines, make up missed work, and so forth.