

Instructor: Dr. Brian Heck
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Office Hours: 1:00-3:00pm M, W
10:00-12:00pm; 1:30-3:30pm T, Th

Prerequisites: Math 358, 360

Required Text: A First Course in Abstract Algebra (2nd ed.) by Joseph J. Rotman (Prentice Hall)

Course Description (catalog): Introductory concepts, axiomatic approach to the number system, general algebraic systems, groups.

Course Description (instructor): Sounds good. With regards to our text, we will cover most of Chapters 1 and 2 as well as parts of Chapter 3. As time allows, we may additionally explore other topics. The main focus of this course is group theory. We will lay down a good foundation of necessary tools (induction, number theory, functions), and then carefully define an abstract group in Chapter 2. We will also acquaint ourselves with many examples of groups, both concrete and abstract. In Chapter 3, we will expand our horizons to consider rings.

Course Objectives: To understand the underlying group structure present in our number system and to see such structure present in other systems.

Grading Policy: Your final semester grade will be computed from the following components.

Board Work: Students will put homework problems on the board. You will be graded on how successfully you present each problem, on how many you present, and on the difficulty of each problem. This will account for 25% of your final semester grade.

Turn-In: Every week will have an additional set of homework problems to turn in. This will account for 25% of your final semester grade.

Exams: We will have 2 exams (an in class mid-term exam and a take home final exam) this semester. They will account for 50% of your final semester grade.

Attendance: I will not include attendance as part of your course grade. I am not your mother or your parole officer, and this is not high school. I do, however, expect you to attend class everyday. You are responsible for any and all material covered in class.

Important Dates:

Final Date to Add Courses or Drop Without a "W" - Friday, January 18, 2002

Final Date to Drop Courses With a "W" - Thursday, March 28, 2002