Math 61051/71051
Abstract Algebra I
Fall 2017

Instructor: Prof. D. L. White
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Hours: 9:45–11:00 AM MTWF


Material to be covered: Chapter 0/Appendix Preliminaries
Chapter 1 Introduction to Groups
Chapter 2 Subgroups
Chapter 3 Quotient Groups and Homomorphisms
Chapter 4 Group actions
Chapter 5 Products, Abelian Groups
Chapter 6 Nilpotent and Solvable Groups
Chapter 7 Introduction to Rings (as time permits)

Course Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to learn about algebraic structures and techniques. See http://www.math.kent.edu/~white/61051/outcomes.pdf for the Learning Outcomes for the course.

The secondary objective, which in some ways is at least as important, is to learn to present mathematics both in written form and orally. This is vital for anyone pursuing a career in mathematics, especially at the graduate level. To this end, all work to be turned in must be in “polished” form. That is, you are expected to write in paragraphs, using clear, complete, grammatically correct sentences. (See also the Homework Guidelines handout.) Homework not in this form will be returned to be rewritten. Oral presentations may occasionally be done in the problem hour.

Grading: There will be 2 midterm exams worth 20% each and a final exam worth 40%. Written homework assignments will account for the remaining 20%. The grading scale will vary depending on the difficulty of the exams.

Exams: An exam will be given at approximately the conclusion of each of Chapters 3 and 6. These are tentatively scheduled for October 10 and November 21. Exact dates will be announced in class. The final exam will be comprehensive. It is scheduled for Friday, December 15, at 10:15 AM.

Homework: A set of homework problems will be assigned each week from the text, lectures, and/or handouts. These will usually be due on Friday, and will be collected and graded. Homework must be turned in on time — that is, at the start of class on the due date. You can get help from the instructor or work together, but each student must write up the solutions independently.

Problem Sessions: This is a 4 hour course, and one class period of most weeks (usually Tuesday) will be devoted to presentations of homework problems, either by students or the instructor.
Attendance/Conduct: Regular class attendance is expected. Class begins at 8:50 and all students are expected to arrive and be prepared to start class on time. Electronic devices must be turned off during class. If your cell phone goes off during class, you will be entering a world of pain. Every effort will be made to end class on time at 9:40. However, it may occasionally be necessary to take a few extra minutes to complete a proof or idea at the end of class. On these occasions, the instructor will appreciate the courtesy of your attention until class is dismissed.

Registration Policy: The official registration deadline for this course is September 3. The course withdrawal deadline is November 5. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

Cheating and Plagiarism: University policy 3342-3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at

http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/administrative-policy-regarding-student-cheating-and-plagiarism

and/or ask.

Students with Disabilities: University policy 3342-3-18 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit http://www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).