

Math 3500 Modern Algebra I

Spring 2011

Basic Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Paulhus

Time and Location: MWF 11:30 AM -12:20 PM in John Barry Hall 202A

Office Hours: M 12:30-1:30, W 10:00-11:00, R 1:30-3:30

Office: 318 SAC

e-mail: jennifer.paulhus@villanova.edu

web site: <http://www.csc.villanova.edu/~jpaulhus/teaching/ma3500sp11.html>

Text: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra*, Joseph Gallian

Material Covered: We will cover many topics in Parts I, II, and III of the book.

Grading Policies

- *Homework:* Homework assignments will be due at the beginning of class on Fridays. Assignments will be listed on the webpage. No late homework will be accepted but I will drop your lowest homework score. The grading rubric for homework, along with some suggestions on good mathematical writing, may be found on the webpage. Homework is 33% of your grade
- *Exams:* There will be two in-class exams, on February 14 and March 28. The exams will be closed books, closed notes, etc. The two exams will be 17% each.
- *Final:* There will be a final which will count for 33% of your grade. The final exam is Wednesday, May 4 from 10:45 AM - 1:15 PM. Do not make plans to go home early.

Other Class Policies

- Your final grade in this course will reflect your performance throughout the whole semester. Except for a possible bonus question on the exams and an occasional challenge homework problem, there will be no extra credit and you cannot retake an exam nor redo homework.
- Make sure you are familiar with the Academic Integrity Code. Any violations of it will result in an automatic zero for that assignment or exam.
- I encourage you to work together to solve homework problems but everyone must write their own solutions. Any copied problems on these assignments will result in a zero for the whole assignment.
- No makeup exams will be given unless agreed to beforehand.
- Cell phone or computer usage is strictly prohibited during class.

- There are a few basic courtesies I expect from my students: please show up on time, please do not leave in the middle of class unless it is an emergency, and please keep conversations among yourselves during class to an absolute minimum.
- Any student with a disability who needs special accommodations or other assistance in this course should make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible.

Unsolicited Advice

- You're not in calculus anymore. "Plug and Chug" or just mindlessly following in-class examples won't cut it. One major goal of the class is to teach you how to think about the problems and explain your solutions like a mathematician. Like any new subject, this requires learning the language we use and the conventions for explaining our work. The best way to do this is to practice, practice, practice.
- Whenever you can, read ahead in the material. A list of planned topics for future classes will be regularly updated on the webpage.
- Most of you will be challenged a lot during the semester. Be prepared to not "get" everything right away.
- Work together when you can.
- If you are struggling, come to see me early. If you wait until a week before the final, there isn't much I can do to help