Math 3124 – Modern Algebra - 14674
Spring 2015
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 - 1:45 (Newman Library 100)

Professor: Estrella Johnson
Office Hours: Mon/Thurs 10:00-11:00 and by appointment

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Recommended Text: Abstract Algebra: Theory and Applications, Thomas Judson
http://abstract.ups.edu/download/aata-20140815.pdf

Course Objectives:
1. Develop your understanding of algebraic structures – particularly Groups, Rings, and Fields
2. Develop your ability to do mathematics, read mathematics, communicate mathematical ideas with others, make conjectures, solve problems, justify, and prove.

Course Format:
Class meetings will involve working in small groups on challenging problems, presenting your progress on these problems, and providing others with questions and comments. It is your responsibility as a learner and as a member of this class to be engaged in participation, rather than being just a passive observer or note-taker. As the instructor I will assume that when you stop discussing and asking questions, you no longer have any questions.

Homework:
Homework will be assigned most Thursdays and will be due the following Tuesdays. Late assignments will not be accepted. Turn in something for each problem to be collected; part of your grade will be assigned based on completion and part of it will be assigned based on the quality of your work (i.e. demonstrating your understanding of the concepts and presenting a clear, logical, convincing argument). You will be encouraged to work with others and use outside resources. However, please remember to credit the people or sources that provided help with the different parts of your assignment.

Portfolio:
You will be expected to keep a portfolio on the material covered in class. This portfolio will serve as your record of class activities and discussions. Additionally, you will be given “portfolio assignments” throughout the semester. These assignments will be designed to either wrap-up the work we did in class or to help prepare you for the next class session.

Your portfolio will be graded 3 times throughout the term. To receive full credit you must be present and have an entry for each class day and assignment. You are responsible for all portfolio entries, even for entries on days that you were absent.

Quizzes:
There will be two closed book quizzes. If you are going to miss a quiz (for a really good reason) you must make prior arrangements with me in order to make it up.
Exams:
Exam 1: Tentatively scheduled for Feb 19th
Exam 2: Tentatively scheduled for March 31st
Final: **Saturday, May 9th from 1:05-3:05**

If you are going to miss an exam (for a really good reason) you must make prior arrangements with me in order to make it up. There will be no rescheduling or making up the final, regardless of the really good reason.

Course Grades:
Your final grade is determined using the following criterion:

- Homework Assignments: 15%
- Portfolio: 15%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Exams and Final: 60%

A scale no stricter than the standard grading scale will be used to assign letter grades.

Course Policies:

*Attendance:*
Attendance is expected for this class. Being absent is not an excuse to turn in assignments last or to have missing content in your portfolio. Remember **late homework assignments will not be accepted, you will receive a 0 for any portfolio check you miss,** and in order to make up quizzes/exams you must have prior approval.

*Ethics and Integrity:*
It is anticipated that students will benefit from discussions of course material with peers (or tutors) outside of class, outside resources, and even the Internet. However, the student is more likely to achieve the learning objectives of this course if his/her own work is submitted for analysis. By turning in a test or assignment, you (the student) certify that the work was produced without plagiarism (passing someone else’s work as your own, or not citing someone else’s work/contribution appropriately) or other forms of academic dishonesty. University policies concerning academic misconduct apply to this class and can be found at [http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu](http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu)

*Makeup policy:*
If you are registered for this course, it is expected that you will attend each day class is scheduled. There are absolutely no make-ups for missed homework. Exams can only be made up with prior arrangement with the instructor or legitimate excuse such as a doctor’s note or funeral service card.

*Students with Disabilities:*
I wish to fully include any person with disabilities in this course. Any student who feels that he/she may need an accommodation because of a disability (learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological, physical, etc.), please make an appointment to see me.