Course Syllabus, M417, Fall 2008 – Daniel J. Rudolph

Instructor: Daniel J. Rudolph, 203 Weber, rudolphd@math.colostate.edu
Office Hours: MW 11-12 or e-mail for an appointment.
Class meetings: MWF 9:00-9:50 in E205 ENGR.
Prerequisites: M317 and M369

We will cover at least the first four chapters. If time permits further advanced topics may be covered.

Homework: Homework will be assigned every week. I strongly recommend you work in groups on the homework but I expect the assignment you hand in to be your work, written in your own words. If I start to see identical assignments handed in I will remind you of this. Sloppy or illegible homework will not receive credit. Homework will be collected on Fridays.

Tests: There will be two in-class 50-minute midterm examinations. These are tentatively scheduled for Oct. 10, covering Chapters 1 and 2, and Nov. 21, covering Chapters 3 and 4. This schedule may change in response to how we are progressing.

Final: Friday December 19, 7-9 a.m.

Term Papers: You will research and write two term papers of 5-10 pages each. The first, due Oct. 24, should be biographical or historical in nature, concerned with a person, period, problem or event important to the development of mathematics. The second, due Dec. 12 (the last day of classes) should be mathematical in nature, concerned with some topic, problem or area of mathematics of interest to you. I am very open to interesting or unusual topics for these papers and will work with you over the next few weeks to choose the topic for your first paper.

Grading: Your course score will be calculated as follows:

- Homework: 20%
- Test 1: 15%
- Test 2: 15%
- Paper 1: 10%
- Paper 2: 10%
- Final: 30%

Test scores will not be curved. I will announce tentative grade cutoffs for each exam when it is returned.