Math 366: Introduction to Abstract Algebra

Time/place: MWF 11-11:50 a.m. in Engineering E105

Course website: www.math.colostate.edu/~bates/courses/S10/366

Text: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra* by Joe Gallian. I’ll be using the seventh edition. You can buy an older edition if you want, but it’s your responsibility to do the right problems.

Instructor info: Prof. Dan Bates, bates@math.colostate.edu, Weber 221 (1-1037)

Office hours for 366: Tuesdays 1-2 and Fridays 1-2.

Prerequisites: Absolutely nothing.

Topics to be covered: All sorts of things, though we will focus on groups and rings. We’ll also hit fields a bit. There will be both computation and theory in the lectures, the homework, and the exams. I understand that you probably aren’t an expert at proofs yet, so we’ll work on those a bit, too.

I am treating this as a terminal course in algebra for future math educators (K-12) and for people outside of math looking to learn some basic algebra. If you are looking for something more rigorous, you should think about 466/467, especially if you are thinking of grad school in math (though this could be thought of as a warmup for that sequence).

Structure of the class: This will be a fairly standard lecture class. I welcome your comments and ideas during lectures! There will be weekly (more or less) homework, an in-class midterm, and a final exam. Feel free to work together on the homework, but you MUST write up your own solutions! I take plagiarism very seriously.

Grading: The homework is worth 40% (split evenly between the assignments) and each of the two exams is worth 30%.

Feedback: I am always happy to hear it, even if it is negative. This is my first time teaching this course, so I am happy to change parts of my style to make the course work better for you. As somebody who cares about teaching, I am always working on improving my pedagogical skills, so all feedback is most welcome!

Final Note: You should know that I have insulin-dependent diabetes and may therefore need to sit down and take it easy occasionally. There is also the very slight risk that I could have very low blood sugar at some point, causing me to pass out. If that happens (the probability of this is very low), I will need somebody to call 911. Please don’t worry: I haven’t passed out yet and don’t intend to! Even if I do pass out, I am not in any significant danger.