Course Syllabus: Now moved to online instruction

CSU Math 366: Introduction to Abstract Algebra, Spring 2020

Instructor: Henry Adams
Email: henry.adams@colostate.edu

Lectures: MWF 12:00–12:50pm in Canvas Conferences
Class Webpage: http://www.math.colostate.edu/~adams/teaching/math366spr2020

Textook: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra* by Joseph Gallian. The book has selected answers in the back, which is great! See http://www.d.umn.edu/~jgallian for online resources associated with our book.

Course Overview: This course is a rigorous and proof-based introduction to abstract algebra. Topics covered include sets, integers, polynomials, real and complex numbers, groups, integral domains, and fields.

Prerequisites: The official prerequisite is Math 161 (Calculus for Physical Scientists) or Math 271 (Applied Mathematics for Chemists I). The unofficial prerequisite is a certain level of mathematical maturity, since I intend to target this Math 366 class at a higher level than most Math 301 or Math 369 classes.

Requirements: Your final grade will be based on the following components:
30% midterm 1
32.5% midterm 2 (category used to be 30%)
25% homework
10% final take-home assignment
2.5% attendance and participation *prior* to the class moving online (category used to be 5%)

Midterm 2 will now be optional, in the following sense. The week before Midterm 2, I will give you an indication of what letter grade you are on pace for. You then have the option to not take Midterm 2, and you will still be on pace for that same grade. Also, if you do take Midterm 2, then it can only improve your final grade and not hurt it (if it would hurt your final grade, then I will drop it as if you did not take it).

Midterm 2 will likely be a two hour exam in which you can use any online materials, my class notes, or the class book, but in which you are not allowed to communicate with anybody. Therefore no problems on this exam will be exact duplicates of problems you have done on homeworks. Students who would normally instead take this exam at the SDC can check in with me to receive proportionally more time while taking this exam on their own.

My understanding is that prior to June 5, any CSU student can change the grade in any of their Spring 2020 classes to S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory), where A, B, C grades get

changed to S, and D and F grades get changed to U, if you elect to do so. See https://www.acns.colostate.edu/media/sites/100/2020/03/Spring-2020-SU-gradingv2.pdf for more details.

Exams: Important dates are:

- Midterm 1, **Friday, March 13** during class,
- Midterm 2, **Friday, May 1** online, and
- Final take-home assignment due **Monday, May 11**.

Confirm you can attend these in-class exams before enrolling. On exams you will only be able to use your brain and a pen or pencil — no notes, books, or electronic devices. The exams will be comprehensive.

Homework: The clarity of your solutions will count as much as their correctness, and all steps must be explained. *A homework problem with no English words will be returned without being graded.* Working in groups on homework and to study is encouraged! However, your submitted homework must be written up individually, in your own words, and without consulting anyone else's written solutions or a solution manual of any form.

Homework is due at the beginning of class (after the move online, homework is due by 5pm on Gradescope, and if you email me to ask I will likely be accommodating of late homework). Late homework will not be accepted, though to accommodate illnesses and other unexpected events the lowest homework score will be dropped. It is in your best interest to inform me as soon as reasonably possible when such a situation arises. CSU policies apply for university-sanctioned activities, for which you should give me plenty of advanced notice.

Academic Policies and Integrity: Students are expected to adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found on the Students' Responsibilities page of the CSU General Catalog and in the Student Conduct Code. For further policies which apply to all math department classes, please see http://www.math.colostate.edu/programs/undergraduate/policies.shtml.

Colorado State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations should first contact the Student Disability Center in order to request accommodations for this class.

Course Syllabus: Prior to move to online instruction

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30% midterm 2
25% homework
10% final take-home assignment
5% attendance and participation

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