

Syllabus - MTH 4441/5541 - Abstract Algebra

Fall 2017

Instructor: Pat Rossi
Office: McCall 227C; (334)670-3588; prossi@troy.edu
Office Hours: M 11:00 - 11:50; 2:00 - 3:00
T 10:00 - 11:50; 1:00 - 3:00
W 11:00 - 11:50; 2:00 - 4:00
F 11:00 - 11:50
Or By Appointment
Text: None
Class Time: M, W, F 10:00 - 10:50 am
Place: MSCX 226 (McCall Hall 224)
Pre-requisites: MTH 2227, MTH 3318, MTH 3331

Course Description: Properties of the integers, modular arithmetic. Elementary theory of groups, finite groups, subgroups, cyclic groups, permutation groups. Group isomorphisms and homomorphisms.

Calculation of Final Average

Test Average	60%
Homework	10%
Final Exam	30%

Assignment of Final Grade

Final Average	Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0 -59	F

NOTE: Final Grades Cannot be Given Out Over The Phone

Final Exam: Our final exam will be given on **Monday Dec. 11, from 2:00pm-4:00 pm**. Students will not be allowed to take the Final Exam early. Exceptions WILL NOT be made for those who have made travel arrangements (e.g. purchased an airplane ticket) for a date on, or before the Final Exam.

Tests

Tests will be on Fridays (not necessarily every Friday) and will be announced one week in advance. They will cover material presented in class up to and including the Wednesday before the test. Tests and homework assignments will be returned to the students after they have been graded, but will remain the permanent property of the Instructor even after they are returned to the students.

Makeup Policy:

There will be no make-up tests given during the semester. Make-up tests will be given on Dead Day (Wednesday Dec. 6) at 10 am, **for those students who missed a test** during the semester. **No student will be allowed to make up more than one missed test.** Notice that these make-up tests are only given to students who **missed a test** (for whatever reason) during the course. (This implies that you may choose to miss a test if you feel that you are not ready. Don't do this indiscriminately - You may need to miss a test later on in the course, due to extreme illness, etc. Nevertheless, the option remains. One catch - once you enter the room to take an exam, you must take the exam. You will not be allowed to enter the room, look at the exam, and then decide whether or not you want to take the exam.

Attendance and Homework Policy:

More than five (5) unexcused absences will result in a grade of FA (Failure due to excessive absences).

Questions on Grading:

The instructor will entertain questions regarding grading of tests and assignments in his office, during office hours only. No questions regarding grading will be addressed during class.

Study and Preparation:

To increase your chances for success, do the assigned homework when it's assigned and ask questions either in class or during office hours on exercises that you find difficult. To a great extent, your conscientiousness in this matter will determine your success in the course. Solutions to assigned homework problems will be posted on my website (<http://www.pat-rossi.com>) after the homework has been collected for grading. Re-working the homework problems and studying these solutions is a good way to prepare for the tests. To get to my website:

1. Go to: <http://www.pat-rossi.com>
2. On the left hand side, click "Academic Links for Troy University Students"
3. Under "Course Links" click "MTH 4441"

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Troy University, under the guidelines of ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, makes reasonable accommodations for documented physical and mental limitations of otherwise-qualified individuals with disabilities. To provide the best possible services to students, employees, and visitors, Troy University has designated Disability Services Coordinators and Human Resources representatives on each campus as responsible parties for coordinating accommodations for persons with disabilities. For more information about physical access to building or grounds, academic or workplace accommodations, or other ADA related services, individuals should contact a Disability Services Coordinator or Human Resources representative on their campus of attendance. Specific information regarding the ADA, including contact information for responsible parties, can be found at the following link:

<http://trojan.troy.edu/employees/humanresources/documents/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

Other Matters: Behavior such as wearing headphones in class, sleeping in class, exiting class during a lecture, talking to classmates during the lecture, reading a newspaper during class time, reading a book other than the assigned text for the course during class time, or doing work not assigned in this class during class time will not be tolerated. (If you are sick, or need to use the restroom, raise your hand and ask to be excused.)

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Troy University no longer has a cell phone policy. This means that I will not prohibit students from having a cell phone, tablet, etc. on their desk, except while tests are being given. I do not like for students to have such devices in plain sight and engaged in their use during my lectures - it's discourteous and it's a distraction to the person who has the device and to others around him/her. Considering how much students pay for each credit hour of instruction, being engaged in using such devices during class time also wastes money that students pay for tuition. But, since there is no longer any University policy regarding the use of such devices in the instructional environment, there is not much that I can do to prohibit their use (except during tests). While taking tests, neither calculators nor cell phones, tablets, etc. will be allowed on your desk and/or in your work environment. Particularly, the use of a communication device to violate the Troy University *Standards of Conduct* will result in appropriate disciplinary action (See the *Oracle*.)

It would be a courtesy for students who are expecting an emergency call to inform me before the start of class. Students receiving calls that they believe to be emergency calls should answer quietly without disturbing the teaching environment. If the call is an emergency, they should move unobtrusively and quietly from the instructional area.

Incomplete Policy

A grade of "I" (incomplete) may be given in the case of illness or emergency situations occurring towards the end of the semester, which make it impossible for the student to complete all course work by the end of the semester in such a way that the student's performance accurately reflects his or her mastery of the course. Such grades are given very sparingly, and only in a case of genuine hardship. Time limits for removing an incomplete can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin. To receive a grade of "Incomplete," a grade of "Incomplete" must be requested by the student and approved by the instructor. (i.e. The student must initiate the process.) See the undergraduate catalog for complete information.

Academic Honesty

Academic misconduct shall be handled according to the guidelines listed in the *Oracle*.

Letters of Recommendation: I will gladly write letters of recommendation for students who receive an "A" in the course, who have reasonably good attendance, who do not cause discipline problems, and who do not text in my class; provided that the letters are for graduate/professional school and/or employment in a field related to your academic major. Letters of recommendation for employment must be for positions that will be filled in the near future. (e.g., don't ask me to write a letter of recommendation for a teaching position, when your date of graduation is over a year away.) Such letters are *confidential*. Also, if you want me to write a letter of recommendation, you must ask me *personally*. (i.e., do not put a note in my mailbox asking me for a letter of recommendation.) Oh – one more thing – the better I know you, the more I will be able to say about you in my letters of recommendation. *Therefore, it is to your advantage to come and see me, and ask for help during office hours.* This is how I get to know my students. Remember – I do not write letters of recommendation for students who have texted in my class. If I see you texting in my class, I put your name on my "Text List" in my office. When someone asks me for a letter of recommendation, I check my list. If your name is on my "Text List," I will not write a letter in your behalf. **SO DON'T TEXT IN MY CLASS!!!**

COURSE CONTENT

1. Functions, Binary Relations
2. Integers and Theory from Elementary Number Theory
3. Groups: Subgroups, Cyclic Groups, Isomorphisms, Homomorphisms
4. Permutations, Cayley's Theorem
5. Cosets, Normal Subgroups, Quotient Groups
6. Rings, Integral Domains, Fields

Important Dates (Which Are Not Listed Elsewhere in the Syllabus)

Aug 21	Last Day to ADD a Course
Aug 21	Last Day to withdraw from the university without financial penalty (cannot be done on <i>Student Planning</i>)
Aug 21	Last Day to Drop a Course without financial penalty
Sept 4	Holiday (Labor Day) – no class
Oct 9	Last Day to Remove an Incomplete from Previous Term
Oct 17	Last Day to Drop a Course (may not be done on <i>Student Planning</i>)
Oct 17	Last Day to Withdraw (may not be done on <i>Student Planning</i>)
Nov 3	Last Day to file <i>Intent to Graduate</i> for Spring 2017 Semester
Nov 10	Holiday (Veterans' Day) – no class
Nov 20-24	Fall Break/Holidays - Thanksgiving
Dec 5	Last day of classes
Dec 6	Dead Day

University Firearms Policy

Regardless and in spite of recent changes in Alabama law related to the matter, it remains the policy of Troy University that no person other than authorized law enforcement officers shall be permitted to bring any firearm onto any campus, teaching, or service support property; owned or leased by the University – no matter whether they hold a permit to do so or not. It has been determined that it is the University's prerogative to establish its policy related to this matter and therefore the current University policy on firearms remains in effect.

This syllabus represents a tentative plan for the instruction in this course. The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus if, in his opinion, such action will enhance and/or optimize learning. Any changes in this syllabus will be announced in class and/or on the instructor's website. This syllabus is a best possible assessment of the course aspirations, assignments and requirements at the time it was developed for this semester.