

Math 113 Syllabus - Fall 2013

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1 Basics

Instructor: Yan X Zhang, yanzhang@math.berkeley.edu
Class: MWF 3-4P, 160 Dwinelle / MWF 4-5P, 123 Wheeler
Office Hours: MWF 5:10P, 813 Evans Hall, or by request
Website: <http://math.berkeley.edu/~yanzhang/classes/math113f13>
Textbook: *A First Course in Abstract Algebra*, Fraleigh, 7th edition

2 Course Content and Style

We will aim to cover around the first 30 chapters of Fraleigh, though with many ideas not taken directly from the text. I will try to make sure that all assignments (including exams) should be doable with just the material in the text, but you will have a much higher advantage by understanding the lectures, which will **not** be restricted to the text.

We make no prerequisite for proof-writing, but part of the explicit goals of this class is also to develop clear and correct proof-writing styles. The rigor of your proofs (not just the correctness of the ideas) will be part of your grade, on both homeworks and exams.

This course will include a lot of communication during lectures (and also office hours!). As such, there will be a class participation grade. This is **not** a contest of who can talk more. Rather, it is an assessment of contributing to this type of classroom atmosphere going smoothly. Someone who is not distracting / disruptive of others who occasionally asks and answers questions in an earnest attempt to learn (as opposed to, say, showing off) will easily obtain the full marks.

3 Grading

Class Participation 10%
Homework 20%
Midterm 25%
Final 45%

The final grade will be curved after averaging. I reserve the right to ignore any questions about grading, especially boundary cases. For those, I will consider things such as extreme situations, steady improvement after a rocky start, etc. but I will not formalize these rules.

4 Exams

There will be two exams, a midterm and a final.

Exam dates are **not negotiable**. If you must miss the midterm, the final exam grade will replace that of the midterm exam.

As a bonus, the final exam grade will also replace the midterm exam if you score higher on the final exam.

5 Homework

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All homework must start (say in the margin) with a note on from whom/what source you obtained information/help regarding the homework. We may disqualify a homework completely if we have sufficient reason to believe that the information you supply is incomplete. You are highly encouraged to discuss homework problems with your classmates, but you must write down your own work, in your own words.

Homework will be given weekly and given at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments may be slid under the office door (Evans 813) and will count only if I find it before **leaving for class** on the due date (typically 2:45 PM), not after class has begun.

There will be no extensions of any kind; in preparation for difficult situations / accidental forgetting of turning in homework / etc., we will remove two of the lowest homework grades.

Most homework will consist of proofs – proofs should be readable, like English prose, so they must be complete sentences when spoken aloud (see the textbook for examples).

6 Other

If you will need special accommodations approved by the Disabled Student's Program, make sure I get notice as soon as possible.

Incomplete "I" grades are almost never given. George Bergman has given a clear overview of the system of "I" grades at http://http://math.berkeley.edu/~gbergman/ug.hndts/I_info.html.