Math 403 – Syllabus – Spring 2012

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Office Hours: (Tentative) Monday 1-2 pm, Friday 12:30-1:30 pm, or by appointment.

Course: Introduction to Abstract Algebra, MWF 11:00-11:50 am, in MTH 0306. Section 0101.


This course covers the algebraic structures known as groups, rings, and fields. There will be lots of examples and some applications, for example to classical algebra problems considered in antiquity (made easy using modern techniques).

Chapter 1: Sections 1-7
Chapter 2: Sections 1-9
Chapter 3: Sections 1-3
Chapter 4: Sections 1-5 (maybe 6)
Chapter 5: Sections 1-6
Chapter 6: selected sections, depending on time

Homework: Homework problems will be assigned weekly, and will be marked by a grader. Homework problems will be posted on the course web-site. Late papers will not be accepted. However, the lowest three grades will be dropped from your homework score.

Exams: Tentative dates for in-class exams:
Exam I: Wednesday, February 29.
Exam II: Friday, April 13.
Last day of class: Wednesday, May 9.

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 15, 8:00-10:00 am.

You will not be allowed to use notes or other aids on your exams.

Grading: Your final grade will be calculated according to the following scheme:
Exams I,II: 25% each
Homework: 20%
Final Exam: 30%.
Other: The course website can be found at my webpage: www.math.umd.edu/~tjh. You should check this regularly for new assignments, and for announcements.

No cell-phone use during lectures or exams is permitted. You are not allowed to have a computer open during lectures unless you are taking notes on your computer (this is because of students' complaints of distraction when other students check facebook, email, etc., while sitting near them during lecture).