
COURSE INFORMATION
MATH 2231 – Ring Theory
Fall 2003

The goal of this course is to introduce *rings*, an abstract algebraic structure. We will learn the basic language of rings, as well as some of the fundamental theorems that describe the structure of rings. The other aim of this course is to teach students how to make mathematical proofs.

Time MWF 11:30 - 12:30
Place Ryan Building 2027
Instructor Adam Van Tuyl
 Office: RB 2015
 Office Hours: Tues: 2:30-3:30 Thur: 9:30-10:30
Text *Abstract Algebra: An Introduction (2nd Edition)* by T. Hungerford
Email avantuyl@sleet.lakeheadu.ca
Web Page http://flash.lakeheadu.ca/~avantuyl/courses/2003_fall_math2231.html

Contact Information. The best way to get a hold of me is via email. Because the class is small, instead of posting news to the web page, I will contact the class via email. Homework assignments, however, will be posted to the web.

Outline. We will cover the following sections of Hungerford's book:

- Chapter 1 - Arithmetic in \mathbb{Z}
- Chapter 2 - Congruence and Modular Arithmetic
- Chapter 3 - Rings
- Chapter 4 - Arithmetic in $F[X]$
- Chapter 5 - Congruence in $F[X]$
- Chapter 6 - Ideals and Quotient Rings

The evaluation is composed of two components.

1. Homework (40%) A homework assignment will be given out every Wednesday. It will be due the following Wednesday at the end of class. All of the homework questions (with some possible exceptions) will be taken from the text book. The text book divides questions into two types of problems:

Type A These exercises review the concepts and definitions introduced in the section. Type A exercises will be marked out of 2 points as follows:

- 2 pts Near perfect or perfect solution. A near perfect solution is a solution that is correct up to the final stage with possible mistake or sign error at the last step.
- 1 pt The solution shows some of the needed ideas, but fails to have the final solution.
- 0 pts Little or no progress is made toward the solution.

Type B These exercise usually involve proving statements using the results and concepts of the corresponding section. The majority of problems assigned will be Type B exercises. These exercises will also be graded on how the proof has been written. These problems will be graded out of 5 points as follows:

- 5 pts A correct solution and a well written proof.

- 4 pts Most of the required ingredients are present, but there are a few technical problems with the solution.
- 3 pts Some of the needed ideas are present. However, the solution either lacks the final conclusion or has some problems in the exposition.
- 2 pts The proof has at most one or two of the needed ideas and/or the proof is poorly written.
- 1 pt An attempt at the solution has been made, but there is a major flaw in the logic of the proof, or the proof is not well written.
- 0 pts Little or no progress is made toward the solution.

A Type B exercise that receives a mark of 3 or less can be rewritten and submitted for a new grade. This can be done at anytime (until the last day of class) and at most two times for any specific problem.

Homework Presentation: All homework should conform to the following style:

- Always write out the question before giving the proof or answer.
- Use only one side of the paper, and write on every other line. This will give me plenty of room to write comments.
- Homework must always be stapled together, and must include your name and homework assignment number.

Homework will have 5 points deducted for every day (weekday) that it is late, and if any of the above style guidelines are not met.

2. Exams (Midterm 20%, Final Exam 40%) There will be one test and a final exam. A detailed handout describing the test (resp. exam) will be given near the test (resp. exam) date.

Class Policies Although attendance is not mandatory, I would appreciate the fact that you show up on time if you do decide to come to class. It is your responsibility to make up missing material.

Exams and tests must be taken on the date assigned (except if there are medical or family emergencies).

Important Dates

Sept. 8, 2003 – Classes Begin

Oct. 13, 2003 - Thanksgiving (no classes)

Oct. 22, 2003 - MIDTERM

Nov. 3, 2003 - Last day to withdraw without penalty

Dec. 1, 2003 - First semester classes end