

# Math 303: Abstract Algebra

Dr. Emilie Wiesner, Fall 2008

## About the Course

Abstract Algebra has its roots in solving equations and studying symmetries. Mathematicians have found that some of these problems can be best addressed by generalizing and abstracting, which has led to the modern field of Algebra.

**Textbook:** *Contemporary Abstract Algebra* (6th ed.), Gallian

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## Contact Information

**Office:** Williams 212D

**Email:** ewiesner@ithaca.edu

**Phone:** 274-1220

**Office Hours:** Monday 3-4PM; Wednesday 1:30PM-2:30PM; Friday 9-10AM.

You are also welcome to stop by whenever I am in or set up an appointment to meet with me.

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## Expectations and Assignments

### Homework and Class Participation:

- *Daily Homework:* There will be several daily homework problems assigned after each class. These problems will help you stay on top of the material and explore new ideas. Some of the may be challenging, so I encourage you to work on them with other students and to stop by to discuss them with me before class. You are expected to have the daily homework prepared to discuss in class. Daily homework may also be collected periodically.
- *Weekly Homework:* There will be 4-6 weekly homework problems assigned, to be turned in for grading. These problems will emphasize both key ideas in abstract algebra and writing proofs. You are always welcome to stop by to discuss these problems with me before turning them in, and I am happy to talk with you both about strategies for solving the homework problems and about the best way to write up your results. There may also be some small group assignments during the semester.
- *Participation:* In addition to presenting daily homework problems, you are expected to contribute to class discussion and to participate in any activities done in class. You can contribute by asking questions, making conjectures, and offering solutions and proofs.

*No late homework will be accepted.*

**Quizzes and Exams:** There will be 3 quizzes and 2 midterm exams given during the semester (Sep 12, Sep 26, Oct 7, Oct 23, Nov 7, Nov 18, Dec 5).

*Make-up quizzes and exams will be given only under extraordinary circumstances.*  
In the event of such an extraordinary circumstance, you should contact me as soon as

possible.

**Attendance:** Participation in class is important. Class attendance is expected, and absences will affect your participation grade. You are responsible for any material or assignments you miss in the event of an absence.

You can read the official college attendance policy at:

[http://www.ithaca.edu/attorney/policies/vol7/Volume\\_7-70202.htm](http://www.ithaca.edu/attorney/policies/vol7/Volume_7-70202.htm).

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### **Academic Honesty**

You are expected to conform to the Standards of Academic Conduct printed in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's work as your own. This includes using a classmate's work, something you found on the internet, and textbooks other than the course textbook. If you have any questions about using sources, please come talk with me.

You may discuss homework for this class with other students and with me, However, you should always write up your homework on your own and in your own words.

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### **Statement Regarding Disabilities**

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation will be provided to students with documented disabilities on a case-by-case basis. Students must register with the Office of Academic Support Services and provide appropriate documentation to the College before any academic adjustment will be provided.

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### **Grades**

Your final score will be broken down as follows:

- 8%: Daily Homework and Participation
- 16%: Weekly Homework
- 16%: Quizzes
- 18%: Midterm Exam I
- 18%: Midterm Exam II
- 24%: Final Exam

Your final score will determine your grade for the class as follows:

Grade	Score	Grade	Score
A	94%	C	74%
A-	90%	C-	70%
B+	87%	D+	67%
B	84%	D	64%
B-	80%	D-	60%
C+	77%	F	<60%

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This syllabus is a general plan for the course. However, deviations may be necessary and will be announced to the class.