Math 331 – Abstract Algebra
Spring 2008
Syllabus

**Professor:** Dr. Nathan Wodarz  
**Email:** nwodarz@uwsp.edu  
**Office:** SCI B335  
**Phone:** 346-3968

**Class Meetings:**
- **Section 1:** T R F 10:00 – 10:50 AM (CCC 212)

**Final Exams:**
- **Section 1:** Thurs. May 15th, 2:45 PM – 4:45 PM

**Office Hours:** M T W R 2:00 – 2:50 PM (or by appointment)

**Class Webpage:** [http://www.uwsp.edu/math/nwodarz/Math331.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/math/nwodarz/Math331.htm)


**Prerequisites:** Math 220 and Math 300

**Course Objectives:** The main purpose of any mathematics course is to help develop the student’s analytical and critical thinking skills. We will do this by analyzing similarities between different number systems and using these common properties to develop abstract structures.

**Course Topics:** We will cover much of Chapters 1 through 7 in the Hungerford text, although we will not follow it precisely. The topics covered include

- Arithmetic in the Integers and Modular Arithmetic
- Rings
- Polynomial Rings
- Ideals and Quotient Rings
- Groups

Some topics may be assigned for reading. If applicable, this will be announced in class.

**Assistance:** Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Come in to my office hours, and work together on homework assignments.
Disability Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify me during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Services, located at 103 Student Services Center or [http://www.uwsp.edu/special/disability/](http://www.uwsp.edu/special/disability/)

Academic Misconduct: Students should be familiar with UWSP’s academic standards, which can be found online at [http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf](http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf)

Students’ Rights: As students, you have a number of rights and responsibilities. Be sure to read the Community Bill of Rights, found at [http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/](http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/)

Grading: The grade will be determined by the following items:

- **Quizzes** (20 %) We will have several short quizzes throughout the semester. These will be primarily calculational in nature.

- **Homework Exercises** (20%) There will be three or four homework sets throughout the semester. Many of these problems will come from the textbook. You will always have at least one week to work on a particular set.

- **Midterm Exams** (30%, 15% each) We will have two midterm exams this semester. Provisionally, these will be given on Fri. Mar. 7th and Fri. Apr. 25th, but the dates may change with at least one week’s notice.

- **Final Exam** (30%) The final exam will be given on May 15th, and will be comprehensive. The exact time is indicated on the first page.

Gradelines: The percentages listed below will guarantee at least the indicated grade. I will examine every student’s grade at the end of the semester and may raise individual grades in some circumstances, although I will never lower one. Under no circumstances will I raise a grade at a student’s request, outside of correcting misrecorded scores.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
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<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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Attendance: Attendance will not be formally recorded or graded, but I will often make note of students who attend class. You are responsible for the content of any announcement made in class, regardless of whether you were present. No make-up exams will be given unless you contact me before the exam. You must provide valid documentation before you are allowed to make up the exam. Meeting the prior two conditions does not automatically mean that you will be allowed to make up the exam, so make every possible effort to be in class on the listed days. If you can’t reach your instructors in an emergency, visit the Student Academic Advising Center, SSC 103, or call them at 715-346-3361.