

MATH 311: Introduction to Algebra, Spring 2024

This syllabus is subject to change in unforeseen circumstances

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You are responsible for every announcement made in class or in SUCourse. Not attending the class or not following SUCourse regularly is not an excuse, in case you miss something.

Textbook:

A first course in Algebra, by John B. Fraleigh, Seventh Edition, PEARSON New International Edition, ISBN 10: 1-292-02496-8

Course Description:

MATH 311 is meant as a gentle introduction to abstract algebra. Much emphasis is put on problem solving and writing rigorous mathematical proofs.

Throughout this course, you are expected to be able to:

- Read, understand and construct rigorous mathematical proofs, e.g., mathematical induction, direct and indirect proofs
- Present mathematical work, both in oral and written format, to various audiences (mathematicians, and non-mathematicians).

The course covers the following topics:

- 1) Groups
- 2) Properties of Groups
- 3) Finite Groups and subgroups
- 4) Cyclic Groups
- 5) Classification of Subgroups of Cyclic Groups
- 6) Group Homomorphisms and Isomorphisms
- 7) Permutation Groups
- 8) Cosets and Lagrange's Theorem

- 9) External Direct Products
- 10) Normal Subgroups and Factor Groups
- 11) Fundamental Theorem of Finite Abelian Groups
- 12) Introduction to Rings
- 13) Integral Domains
- 14) Ideals and Factor Rings
- 15) Ring Homomorphisms
- 16) Polynomial Rings
- 17) Fields

Grading:

Your grade depends exclusively on the following listed items. There will be no other extra-credit opportunities.

- Attendance and Participation: 3%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Two Midterms: 25% each
- Final Exam: 30%

Midterm I	Saturday, March 23, 2024, 10:00-12:00
Midterm II	Saturday, May 04, 2024, 10:00-12:00

Locations of Midterms will be announced in fashionable time. The final may be given on any day between May 30 – June 09. Student Resources will determine the dates and times for all final exams, and instructors cannot change it. So, do not plan to leave İstanbul before Jun 10. We will not accommodate travel arrangements, or other personal business.

All exams are cumulative. What you fail to learn in the beginning may hurt you at the end. There is NO extra credit. Also, there will be NO make-up exams, unless the circumstances are extraordinary.

Is there anything I need to know for exams?

- 1) You must SHOW ALL WORK on exams. Unsupported answers are considered miracles and, while inspirational, will receive little or no credit.
- 2) Graded exams will be returned to you as soon as possible.

Quizzes:

There will be short pop-up quizzes on SUCourse taking place during the last 10 minutes of the lecture. There will be no make-up for any of the quizzes for any reason. At the end of the semester, the worst two quizzes will be dropped.

There will be four lists of suggested problems. Please solve them all as they will help you get prepared for quizzes and exams.

Midterms and Final Make-up Policy:

If you miss a Midterm/Final and wish to make it up, you must contact your instructor by mail, and explain your excuse as soon as possible. Only students that had contacted the instructor with a valid documented excuse will be contacted to arrange the terms of the exam.

NA Policy:

Students missing the two exams will receive NA, and will not be allowed to take the makeup. If you will have serious issues preventing you from regularly following the course, you are required to contact your instructor.

Extra Help:

You are welcome to utilize the office hours of your instructor or your TA. The exact office hours will be posted on SUcourse shortly.

Classroom Discipline:

It is our responsibility to provide students with excellent learning environments. We are therefore asking you to please respect both our responsibility to teach and the right of other students to learn. Any action that disturbs your classmates or interrupts the lecture is unacceptable. The following rules must be followed in all classes:

1. Classes will start on time. By coming to a class late, you will lose important material and announcements.
2. If you are unable to attend a class, you are responsible to find out what you have missed.
3. You are responsible for every announcement made in class or on SUCourse+.

Academic integrity:

All university policies on academic integrity apply to our course, and they will be enforced. (more information on <http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement>). In general, to ensure Academic Integrity, any student might be asked to validate any activity contributing to their grade in an interview via Zoom (recorded, with audio and video). A student failing to explain the submitted work, or refusing/missing the interview, will receive zero from that work.

In particular, no form of cheating is welcome in the exams or quizzes, such as copying whole or part of each other's answers, using cheat-sheets etc. The action against such violations could range from getting a zero on the particular quiz/exam to explaining the case in front of the Disciplinary Committee.