Math 325, Fall 2016

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Phone: 909-869-2426 (I don’t listen to my voicemail, so please email if I don’t answer the phone. I don’t generally answer my phone either – email really is your best bet.)
Office hours: Tuesday 5:00-7:00, Thursday 5:00-7:00 (or by appointment)

Text: There will be no text for this class, but I will post notes on the class webpage.

Prerequisites: There are no official prerequisites for this class. However, much of the material will involve mathematical proofs. You should be able to follow a mathematical proof and write one yourself. We will review the methods of proof that we need, but you should be prepared to really work if proofs are new for you.

Grading:

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<th>Component</th>
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<td>Homework, Quizzes, and Classwork</td>
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<td>Midterm 1</td>
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Homework: You are allowed to collaborate with other students on homework assignments, but the work you turn in must have been written up on your own. The wording in your homework should in no way look like the wording in anyone else’s homework. This is a writing course. Many of the answers in your homework will be short (or not so short!) essays. I expect your proofs to be written using complete sentences and mostly correct spelling and grammar. Use words instead of symbols. Using the internet to search for solutions to problems is not considered an acceptable way to get help with your homework. Nor is looking at a classmate’s solutions if you were not an active participant in a problem solving session that gave rise to said solutions. Also your homework should stand on its own. To understand your work, I should not need to refer to anything (the notes, the assignment sheet, my own knowledge of the subject) other than your homework itself; among other things this means that you should restate the hypotheses when you are proving something. Most importantly, writing mathematics - like any writing really - is something that usually requires more than one draft. Your homework should never ever look like a first draft. Do your work on scratch paper. When you have worked out all of the details and gotten whatever help you are going to get, then, and only then, should you even begin to write up the draft you are going to turn in. We may also occasionally have problems that you need to turn in by email, as well as reading assignments and problems that will not be turned in or graded (and I reserve the right to ask you about these in class). It is important for you to check the course webpage frequently to make sure you know what all the upcoming assignments are.

Some homework rules:

1. Homework must be written on plain, unlined paper. The paper does not need to be white, and scratch paper with typing (or crayon or whatever) on the other side (as long as it is not too intrusive) is fine.

2. Homework must be written on only one side of the page.
3. Please leave roughly half inch to one inch margins on either side of the page and approximately half an inch to an inch between problems so that I have room to write comments. (These do not need to be exact. You do not need to mark your margins on the page; just make sure that there is ample room on both sides of a problem and between problems for me to write comments.)

4. No cursive!

5. Please print out the homework cover sheet and staple it to your homework.

6. Late homework will not be accepted. Homework must be turned in by 6:55 on Thursdays. You may give me your homework in class or bring it to me in my office. (If I am not in my office, you may slide it under the door. Please do not leave it in the box outside my office; I don’t check it.) If you choose to write your homework using \LaTeX, then you may email it to me by Saturday at 2:00. (If you tex your homework, then you may occasionally turn it in as late as Sunday or Monday.)

7. Homework needs to be neat and not look like a first draft. You must use complete sentences and except for congruences and the divides symbol, always use words instead of symbols.

**Exams:** There will be two midterm exams (tentatively in weeks 5 and 9) and a cumulative final exam.

**Attendance:** There won’t be any formal roll taken, but it should be clear that attendance is expected. Conspicuous absence - “has anyone seen X lately?” - could lead to a lowering of X’s grade. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get homework assignments, due dates for homework assignments, exam dates and changes to due dates and exam dates. Also, there may be quizzes (announced) and in-class assignments (not necessarily announced) which will count towards your Homework, Classwork, Group Work, and Quizzes grade. Needless to say, it is difficult to take these quizzes or participate in said in-class assignments if you are not actually in class. Also, we do not have a book for this class, and I cannot guarantee that the posted notes will contain everything from the class lecture, so I would advise getting a copy of the notes from a classmate if you miss a class.