

SYLLABUS – MATH 321
Spring 2016

Dr. J. Shapiro

Office: Exploratory Hall, Room 4413

Hours: MW 12:30 - 1:30 and by appointment

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Text: “Contemporary Abstract Algebra”, by Joseph A. Gallian, 8th Edition

Web: math.gmu.edu/~jshapiro/m321/

Prerequisite: The official prerequisite for this course is Math 290 or its equivalent. Primarily what is needed for this course is a knowledge of elementary set theory and familiarity with “mathematical proofs”. If you have some doubts as to whether or not you have sufficient background for this course, please speak to me.

Material to be covered: We will cover, in order, chapters 0 - 16 (this is a bit optimistic). The two main topics covered are group theory and ring theory with the majority of the time spent on the former.

Grading There will be two in-class exams during the term, each worth 100 points. The first exam is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 29. In addition, homework will be collected regularly (they will be worth approximately 15-20 points each). Typically, homework will be due on Wednesday, by 2:00 at my office (rather than in the classroom, though you can always hand it in early). Since the hand-in homework counts toward your grade, you are required to do these on your own, though you are allowed to ask me questions on the work. The homework will be announced in class and will also be posted on the web page I have for this course (it may appear on the web page before I announce it in class). The page can be accessed directly by the above. Note, I do not use Blackboard. Typically there will be two “parts” to the homework assignment. The first is listed as hand-in, which is self evident. The second part is called additional and this does not have to be turned in. It is designed to further your understanding of the material. While on occasion, given a good reason, I will accept an assignment handed in late, I reserve the right to refuse any work submitted after the due date. The final, which is comprehensive, is worth 150 points and is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4 10:30am - 1:15 pm