

Syllabus for Math 170, Ideas in Mathematics

Fall 2013

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Course Text

The Heart of Mathematics (Fourth Edition) by Burger and Starbird

Exams

There will be two in-class midterms, and a final exam. The two midterms will be 25% of your final grade each, and the final will be 35% of your final grade.

Homework (15% of grade)

One problem set will be due each week, at the beginning of each Thursday's class. The problem sets consist of roughly 7-14 problems of varying difficulty. Doing and understanding the homework is the best way to prepare for the tests.

This class will push through a fair amount of material, and as a fair warning, you will have to work hard to keep up. If you fall seriously behind on the homework, you will not be able to keep up in class and will not be prepared for the exams.

You are allowed to work in groups, but you must write up your own solutions. You must always show your work. No credit will be given for correct answers without correct work, on either exams or homeworks. No exceptions.

Quizzes

Quizzes will take place occasionally in recitation, and will be announced ahead of time. The quiz grade will be incorporated into your homework grade. One quiz is worth one homework.

Makeup policy

All of your responsibilities for this class have been announced well ahead of time, namely in the first week of classes. Thus almost no requests for makeup homeworks or exams will be granted. The only exceptions, assuming evidence is provided, will be for serious illness, family emergency, or unforeseeable catastrophe (flood, car wreck, etc).

Grading policy

The grading will be curved, meaning your letter grade will be influenced by your performance relative to the rest of the class. An approximate curve will be made after each exam. The final curve, by which your course grade will be determined, will be set using the same process used for the individual exams, so the individual exam grades will be a good measure of how well you are doing.