

## Syllabus, Math 4120

Rm 221, Lind Lecture Hall, TR 10:30-11:45, Spring 2016

**Instructor:** Matt Ondrus      **Office Hrs (Lind Lec 014):** Mon 11:30-12:30, Tues 9:30-10:30, Wed 11:30-12:30, Thurs 9:30-10:30, or by appointment (or drop in 3104 Office: 3104 Wildcat Village Wildcat Vil.)

**Email:** *mattondrus@weber.edu*      **Course Info:** Canvas & <http://faculty.weber.edu/mattondrus/4120/>

**Text:** Contemporary Abstract Algebra, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., Joseph, Gallian

**Homework:** Homework will be due about once per section of the book that we cover. I will grade some, but usually not all, of the problems you turn in. Each problem will be graded on a five point scale. **I encourage you to work with classmates on homework**, but your solutions must be your own writing and your own explanations. Homework will be due in class on the specified date. I will accept late homework once (up to two class days) with no questions asked. After that, late homework will receive at most  $\frac{2}{3}$  credit. **This class is heavily proof-based. The clarity of your arguments and writing is very important on homework.**

**Student presentations of homework:** Each day, one student will be asked to present a solution to present a problem from the textbook. This problem will be given to that student ahead of time. These presentations will account for a very small part of your homework grade.

**Exams:** There will be **one** take-home midterm exam (due approximately March 1) and one (cumulative) take-home final exam. On these exams, you **are not permitted to work with your classmates or use the internet**. However, I will usually be willing to give you a couple hints if you are stuck.

**Note:** The Final exam is due on Thursday, Apr 28, at 11:00 a.m.

**Project:** Instead of a second midterm, you will write a paper in which you answer some challenging questions about some algebraic object. The aim of this paper is to force you to study one example very deeply. More details will be provided later.

**Calculators:** Calculators will rarely help you in this class.

**Grading.** Homework 28%, Vocab quizzes 14%, Midterm 18%, Project 18%, Final 22%

Grade	A- to A	B- to B+	C to C+	D- to D+
Score, $s$	$88 \leq s \leq 100$	$75 \leq s < 88$	$65 \leq s < 75$	$55 \leq s < 65$

**Course Material:** Algebra (specifically, representation theory) is my area of research, and I love thinking about it. However, this is a tough course, and you should know what you are getting into. When doing research, I frequently find myself muttering, erasing, rereading things (for the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> time), and arguing with myself. You should probably expect something like this too. At the very least, be prepared to read your book two or three times and go over your notes before you truly understand what you read.