Math 512  
Fall Term 2011  
Classes MWF 2–3 PM, East Hall 1372

Instructor: Professor Karen E. Smith  
East Hall 3074  
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Office hours: Mondays 3-4, Thursdays 12-1, and by appointment.

Text: Artin, Algebra, first edition

Grade: There will be occasional quizzes counting a total of 10% homework counting 30%, two in-class midterms exam counting 15% each and a final counting 30%. The final is Friday December 16, 1:30-3:30 pm. The exam problems will be similar to homework problems; some may be distributed several days before the actual written exam.

Homework is the most important part of this course! Homework will be assigned every Friday and will be due at the beginning of class on the following Friday. Late homework will not be accepted (it receives a zero). The two lowest homework grades are dropped. The homework is by far the most important part of this course.

You are encouraged to discuss the problems with other students, but you are fully responsible for the write-up yourself! Specifically, this means you either write all solutions yourself independently, or (within the parameters discussed below) you proofread and help refine your partner’s write-up of your joint work. It is extremely important that you have a scholarly and professional approach to the actual write-up of the solutions. All students are responsible for writing their written solutions, carefully acknowledging sources. Failure to do so will result in zero on that assignment, the disappointment of your professor, loss of your reputation as a serious scholar, and worst of all, the deep shame of being a dishonest and/or sloppy mathematician. Repeat offenders risk serious disciplinary action at the University level.

You have two options for how to do approach writing up homework solutions.

Option 1: Individual. You write up all your solutions independently. Of course, you must cite and acknowledge all sources, including any classmates with whom you have discussed the material.

Option 2: Joint Work. You collaborate and turn in just one paper that you write with a partner, to whom you are committed for a total of two problem sets. In this case, only one of the students (the “scribe”) writes the paper you both turn in for the (same) grade. However, for the second problem set on which you collaborate, the other student is the scribe. In this case, both students are expected to have proofread and approved the final paper which is submitted. Both names should appear on the one paper, with the scribe’s name clearly indicated. Of course, you must cite and acknowledge all sources, including any additional classmates with whom you have discussed the material. A homework team is a commitment for two weeks, and two weeks only. Students are free to regroup, or to work alone, for different assignments, as long as each pair remains committed to each other long enough to evenly share the responsibility of writing.

To facilitate the grading of homeworks: do the problems in order, write on only one side of the paper, and use standard sized paper. No credit will be given for misstated problems. You are encouraged to learn to use Latex! http://www.latex-project.org/