

Algebra II
Math 258, Section 31
Winter Quarter 2009
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Schedule: This class meets MWF 10:30-11:20 in Ryerson 276. The course does not meet on Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and it does not meet on Friday, February 13, which is College Break Day. Friday, March 13, is part of Reading and Review days, and there will be a review session held during normal class time.

Text: *Abstract Algebra*, 3rd Ed., by Davis S. Dummit and Richard M. Foote, ISBN # 0-471-43334-9. Copies will be available in the university bookstore and elsewhere.

Exams: There will be two hour exams (50 minutes) in class on Wednesday, January 28, and Friday, February 27, and a final exam (2 hours) on Monday, March 16, at 10:30 A. M., as scheduled by the Registrar's Office. I do not anticipate having to give any make-up midterm exams. Exceptions for serious circumstances will be considered only if you make arrangements with me at least 24 hours in advance. As for the final exam, it is the policy of the Mathematics Department that the final exam must occur at the time and place designated on the College Final Exam Schedule.

Homework: Homework assignments will be posted on the course website weekly and will be due on Fridays. (Exceptional arrangements will be made for the weeks of the midterm and College Break Day.) You are encouraged to work together and to discuss problems, but you are also expected to write up your own solutions in order to receive credit.

Grading: Your final grade will be calculated as one part homework, one part for each midterm, and two parts final exam, though I do reserve the right to have some (small) additional components, such as an occasional (announced) quiz.

College Fellow: Vipul Naik is a second-year graduate student who will serve as our College Fellow. This means that he will grade homework, run a weekly problem session, hold office hours, and give the occasional lecture. He will be an integral part of the course and important resource for your work in it. His office is Eckhart 3, and his e-mail is: vipul@math.uchicago.edu

Office Hours and Problem Sessions: My office is Ryerson 354. I plan to hold generous office hours, which are tentatively scheduled for at least Mondays from 12–1 and 4–5 and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–5. Vipul will also be holding office hours on Tuesdays from 4:30–7 and Thursdays from 6–8 in his office, Eckhart 3, and a regular weekly problem session on Wednesday evenings from 7–8 in Eckhart 203. I am also happy to meet with you outside of normally scheduled hours by appointment.

Syllabus: Dummit and Foote's text will serve as the basis for the course. We will cover most of Parts II and III, which consist of a thorough treatment of rings and modules.