

**MATH 720, Algebra I, 3 credits, Fall 2014**

MWF 1:00-1:50 PM, Minard Hall 308

INSTRUCTOR: Sean Sather-Wagstaff

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PHONE: 231-8105

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 12:00-12:50, or by appointment

PREREQUISITE: MATH 421/621, or permission of instructor

COURSE WEBPAGE: <http://www.ndsu.edu/pubweb/~ssatherw/fa14/720/>

TEXT: Course notes will be available on the course website. I may update the notes during the semester. You may also consider purchasing:

“Abstract Algebra” by Dummit and Foote , or “Algebra” by Hungerford

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to rings, modules, and linear algebra.

COURSE GRADES: Student grades are based on approximately thirteen homework assignments, one midterm exam, one final exam, attendance, and participation. I will update your grades throughout the semester at the NDSU Blackboard site. Weights are summarized in the following table along with grade ranges.

Homework	50%	A	85–100%
Midterm Exam	20%	B	75–84.9%
Final Exam	20%	C	60–74.9%
Attendance and Participation	10%	D	50–59.9%
		F	0–49.9%

HOMEWORK: I will assign homework on a weekly basis. Exercises will be assigned in class on Wednesdays and solutions will be due by 5:00PM the next Wednesday. The first assignment will be due Wed 10 September. Assignments will also be listed on the course webpage. Each section of homework will be worth the same amount. Late homework will only be accepted under unavoidable, documentable circumstances. If you know in advance of a conflict with one of the homework due dates, you are responsible for making alternative arrangements or informing me beforehand.

Students are encouraged to work on assignments in small groups, but each member of the class is required to turn in their own neatly written, organized set of solutions. Students will receive no credit for solutions with no work or justification. You must cite any sources you use (course notes, text, online source, fellow student, etc.). I reserve the right to deduct points for messy papers. You may even consider using  $\text{\LaTeX}$  to typeset your solutions.

EXAMS: The midterm exam will be take-home (see the Tentative Schedule). You will be allowed to use the course notes and your class notes on the midterm, but you must work alone on it. (You can ask me questions, but you may not work with other students, tutors, friends, instructors, etc., and you may not use any online resources.) No homework assignment will be given for the week of the midterm exam.

The final exam will be comprehensive and will last 2 hours (see the Tentative Schedule). You will be allowed to use one 2-sided sheet ( $8.5 \times 11$ ) of hand-written notes during the final exam.

Make-up exams will only be allowed under unavoidable, documentable circumstances. If you know in advance of a conflict with one of the exam dates, you are responsible for making alternative arrangements or informing me beforehand.

ATTENDANCE: While attendance is not explicitly required, it is worth 10% of your grade. I will take attendance each class period. Officially excused absences will not be counted against you, but you must document such situations with me personally.

COURTESY: Cellular telephones, pagers, and other similar devices are not to be used and are to be turned off or set to vibrate-mode during class-time. Students violating this policy will receive one warning per semester. After the warning, violations will result in loss of attendance credit for the day.

MAKE-UPS: Make-up exams will only be allowed and absences excused under unavoidable, documented circumstances, as described next.

Circumstance	Required documentation
Illness or other medical situation	Official note from clinic, hospital, doctor, nurse, or other health care provider
Military service	Official military activation orders
Funeral or other family emergency	Official documentation from newspaper, funeral, or medical official
Official NDSU activity	Official documentation from the activity's faculty adviser

Note that vacations and other recreational activities (including hunting trips) do not qualify for make-ups. If you have a pre-existing conflict with an exam, class meeting, or homework deadline, you are responsible for making alternative arrangements or informing me beforehand.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

Labor Day holiday (no class)	Mon 01 Sep
Midterm Exam distributed	Wed 29 Oct
Midterm Exam due	Wed 05 Nov, by 5:00PM
Thanksgiving holiday (no class)	Thu 27 Nov–Fri 28 Nov
Classes end	Fri 12 Dec
Final Exam	Mon 15 Dec, 8:00–10:00AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Periodically, I will send course announcements to your ndsu.edu email account. It is your responsibility to check this email account regularly.

INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK: At the course webpage, there will be a link to an anonymous evaluation form where students can submit comments or suggestions for me at any time during the semester.

ADA STATEMENT: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical or cognitive disabilities in order to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please let your instructor know as soon as possible. For more information, please contact Student Disability Services at 231-7671 or go to <http://www.ndsu.edu/counseling/disability.shtml>.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. For instance, the following are forbidden: unauthorized collaboration or use of unauthorized materials on exams, missing citations on homework, and falsifying grade records or documentation for absences. This list is not exhaustive; see also NDSU Policy 335 and/or <http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty/>.

Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of 0 for the item in question. In addition, every such student will be reported to the Chair of Mathematics, the Dean of the Graduate College, the Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, the Provost, and the Registrar. The Registrar will add any such student to NDSU's Student Academic Misconduct Database. (Multiple entries in this database may result in additional sanctions from NDSU.) Students found guilty of a second offense of academic dishonesty in this class will also receive a course grade of F, and will not be allowed to drop or withdraw from the course.

VETERANS: Veterans and student soldiers with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor in advance.