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## Guidelines for Problem Sets

One goal of an 800-level topics course is to strengthen students' communication of mathematics. Students will receive no credit for solutions with no work or justification and points will be deducted for messy papers. Here are some general tips and expectations for your Problem Sets:

- Be academically honest. This means, for example, providing a list of the people (if any) with whom you worked on a Problem Set and providing a list of sources (if any) that you used to complete an assignment. Although you are encouraged to work on assignments together in small groups, you are required to submit only your work (work that you understand and is written in your own words). Moreover, although it is tempting to just copy available materials, struggling through the material on your own is an important phase of the learning process. You are obligated to adhere to the NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (see the course syllabus and <http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty/>).
- If you are feeling particularly challenged by a problem, be patient with yourself - it takes time to master newly learned things. Always remember that good examples can shed great clarifying light. This is a great lesson to keep in mind when working on research as well!
- Mathematics is a language in itself that is common to many sciences across the world. It is crucial that we all use consistent and correct notation.
- The material you submit should be self-contained. In particular, you should be able to look at it again a month later and understand what is on the paper. That being said, use great care in deciding what information is truly required for the reader's understanding – unnecessary information can conceal a wonderfully clever solution and add confusion.
- Take pride in your work. This means you should:
  - use  $\text{\LaTeX}$  to typeset your work (or at the very least write legibly and remove fringe from paper);
  - use complete sentences with proper grammar and correct spelling;
  - provide justification for your claims;
  - clearly state all the hypotheses being used;
  - submit problems in order (with the problems clearly labeled!);
  - staple pages together;
  - make sure to include your name (first and last) on the first page you submit.
- Late submissions will only be accepted in unavoidable, documented circumstances as explained in the course syllabus. You can always submit an assignment before the deadline.
- Like in all areas of life, constructive feedback can be difficult to digest and accept. Please know that the feedback provided in this course is meant to *improve* your mathematical solutions and communication. Please take the feedback seriously and apply it to your future work.