

MTH 310 - Course Syllabus**Instructor: Teena Gerhardt****E-mail: teena@math.msu.edu**

- Class Meetings:** This class meets online, via Zoom, MWF 1:50-2:40pm Eastern Time. The Zoom information is:
LINK: *****
PASSWORD: *****
- Office Hours:** Office hours will be held online via Zoom, on Wednesdays 4-5pm, Thursdays 8:30-9:30pm, and by appointment (made via email). The Zoom link for office hours is:

- Contact:** The easiest way to contact the instructor is via email (teena@math.msu.edu). Students can expect a response to their emails within 24 hours. Students can also post questions about the course, or about homework problems, to the discussion forum on D2L, where their classmates and the instructor can contribute answers.
- Textbook:** Hungerford, *Abstract Algebra: An Introduction, third edition*, ISBN:978111569624
- Most of the first six chapters of the textbook will be covered, as well as additional topics. You will be expected to read the sections of the text covering lecture topics, and you will also be responsible for any material covered in class. It is recommended that students read the textbook material before attending the class which covers it.
- Technology:** This course requires internet access as well as access to Zoom and D2L.
- Course Website:** The course site is hosted on D2L (<https://d2l.msu.edu>). Please familiarize yourself with the course site. This is where assignments and exams will be posted and turned in. For students who miss one of the synchronous course meetings, class notes and/or videos will be posted on the D2L site.
- Course Description:** This is a first course in abstract algebra. Students will learn about the structure of the integers, congruences, rings, ring homomorphisms, polynomial rings, ideals, and quotient rings. There will also be a focus on the development of mathematical communication skills. Students will learn to write clear, concise, and rigorous proofs of mathematical statements.
- Homework:** Homework assignments will be posted on the D2L course page. Students are encouraged to talk with classmates about the assignments, but each student must write up and submit their own solutions. There is a D2L discussion forum where homework problems can be discussed with classmates and the instructor. Completed assignments will be submitted on D2L as a pdf file. Typically 3 or 4 of the submitted problems from each assignment will be graded carefully, and some points will be given for completeness of the rest of the assignment. Assignments will be due most weeks, usually on Friday at the beginning of class. There will be 10 homework assignments total. The lowest 3 homework assignment grades for each student will be dropped when computing the final course grade.

Midterm Exams: There will be two midterm exams in this course. These exams will take place from 7:30-9:00pm, Eastern Time, on the following dates: **Tuesday, October 13** and **Thursday, November 19**. If you will need an alternative time for one of the exams, please talk to the instructor as soon as possible.

The final exam will be **Wednesday, Dec 16 2020, 5:45-7:45pm**.

If it improves your grade, your lower midterm score will automatically be replaced by your final exam score.

Portfolio: Students will submit a proof portfolio, highlighting growth in proof-writing throughout the semester. A detailed description of the proof portfolio assignment, and the grading rubric, are available on D2L. **The portfolio will be due on Wednesday, December 9**. There are also earlier progress deadlines. See the portfolio assignment description on D2L for more information.

Grading: Grades in this course are based upon the scores from the student's homework, portfolio, and exams, according to the following percentages.

Assessment	Homework	Portfolio	Exam 1	Exam 2	Final Exam
Percentage of Grade	20%	15%	20%	20%	25%

The following grading scale will be used to calculate course grades.

GRADE	0.0	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0
% GRADE	[0, 55)	[55, 60)	[60, 65)	[65, 72)	[72, 78)	[78, 84)	[84, 90)	[90, 100]

If it improves your grade, your lower midterm score will be automatically replaced by your final exam score.

Attendance policy: Students are expected to attend the synchronous class meetings, MWF 1:50-2:40pm. The synchronous meetings will be recorded and posted on D2L for students who are ill or who cannot attend one of the class meetings due to other circumstances. Students who will be in a time zone that makes synchronous attendance difficult should talk with the instructor.

Course recordings: Meetings of this course will be recorded. The recordings will be available via D2L to students registered for this class. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

Honesty: The math department adheres to the university policies on academic honesty. Students caught cheating may receive a 0.0 on the assignment/exam or fail the course. This includes using another person's work and plagiarism from the internet.

Dates: The following are important dates for Fall 2020:

Sep 2	Classes begin
Sep 7	Labor Day – no classes
Sep 9	Online open add period for fall semester ends (8pm)
Sep 28	Last day to drop with refund (8pm)
Oct 21	Last day to drop with no grade reported (8pm)
Nov 26-27	University Holiday
Dec 11	Last day of classes

These are exceptional, difficult times. Many of us may experience significant challenges this semester. If you need flexibility with deadlines, please do not hesitate to ask. My goal, as the instructor, is to support your learning during this challenging period. I fully understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise. I want to work with you to help you succeed in this course. The grading scheme is designed to be flexible, with several dropped homework grades, and a policy that allows you to replace your lower midterm grade with your final exam grade if it helps your course grade. All synchronous class meetings will be recorded and posted to D2L for students who have to miss class. I encourage you to discuss with me other accommodations that you may need due to illness or other circumstances.