

Math 3500: Modern Algebra, Section 001

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| Instructor: | Dr. Amanda Knecht | Office: | SAC 323 |
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| Office Hours: | Monday 1-4pm and Wednesdays 11:30am- 12:30pm and by appointment | | |

Text: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra* by J.A. Gallian, ISBN: 0-547-16509-9.

Course website: <http://www.homepage.villanova.edu/amanda.knecht/math3500.html>

The course website will list all homework assignments and topics covered on the course Google Calendar. You can also add this to your own google cal and use it to schedule time to meet outside of regular office hours. If you make an appointment with me to go over problems outside of the normal office hours and do not specify that you want this to be a private meeting, I will post the appointment on the calendar so others can join in.

I also will have your grades posted on Blackboard.

Homework: The homework assignments will be given on the board and can be found on the website. These are to be written up neatly and turned in at the beginning of class on Tuesdays. Late homework will not be accepted but I will drop your lowest score. You are always welcome to talk to me about any problems in the book during my office hours. The goal of homework is not to be perfect every time but to understand it before you are tested. I encourage you to work together to solve homework problems but everyone must write their own solutions. Any copied problems on these assignments will result in a zero for the whole assignment.

A graduate student will grade your work, but I will look over them to make sure everything looks okay. I would like everyone in the course to make an appointment with me before the first exam to go over their proof writing. Later in the semester I will let you know if you need to make another appointment to perfect your skills.

Exams: There will be no make-up examinations, unless the student has received permission in advance or has proper proof of an emergency situation. Start thinking now about the final time. Please note that *personal travel plans that conflict with an exam are **not** an excuse for an alternate exam time or day.*

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| Exam 1 | Thursday, February 23 | In Class |
| Exam 2 | Thursday, April 12 | In Class |
| Final Exam | Saturday, May 5 | 1:30 A.M.–4:00 P.M. |

Grading: The various components of your work in the course will be assigned the following portions of your total score:

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| Exam 1 | 18% |
| Exam 2 | 18% |
| Final Exam | 32% |
| Homework | 32% |

The grading scale is the usual ten point scale where the pluses and minuses will be determined at the end of the semester when I see how the scores are distributed.

Special Arrangements: If you have a documented disability requiring special accommodations, please inform me at the beginning of the semester, or at least two weeks prior to needing the accommodation.

“It is the policy of Villanova to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability please make arrangements to register with the Learning Support Office (LSS) by contacting 610-519-5636 or at nancy.mott@villanova.edu as soon as possible. Registration is needed in order to receive accommodations. All members of the Villanova community are encouraged to contact LSS with any questions or concerns.”

Homework Grading Rubric

4 points Correct solution clearly written. Everything is justified with only very minor errors, if that (for example a simple copying error).

3 points The solution is mainly correct with only a minor error (arithmetic mistake for instance). Or there is a correct statement asserted at some point but not justified.

2 points The solution may technically be correct but there is little or no justification of it. Or the solution may contain a more serious error (something that is clearly a misunderstanding of a crucial concept).

1 points The problem started on the right track and then things went bad quickly. Perhaps a major error was made early, or wild claims with no justification, or the whole point of the problem was misunderstood.

0 points Did not attempt the problem or only stated trivial consequences of the problem.

Proof Writing Guidelines

- I Assume you should always justify why your answer is valid or correct, even if the problem does not explicitly say that. If the problem asks “Find a...” or “Give an example of ...” you should always implicitly add an “...and explain why” to the end of the problem.
- II All your solutions should be written in complete sentences and in paragraph form.
- III Give other people credit. Please list at the top of the first page the names of anyone with whom you worked or any source (animate or inanimate) from which you received assistance.
- IV While you are writing your solutions, do not think about writing them for me. Think about writing explanations for the other students in the class.
- V Here are some suggestions that may help get you started when you find a problem difficult. Make sure you understand exactly what the question is asking you. Do you know what all the mathematical symbols are referring to? Remind yourself or write down any definitions of mathematical words in the problem. Would working through an example help clarify the problem?
- VI If your handwriting is atrocious, I am happy to give you a basic introduction to L^AT_EX.