

MATH 435 (Spring 2009)
Basic Abstract Algebra

Course Description: This is a three-credit course that aims to provide an introduction to abstract algebra. Topics to be covered include basic theory in groups, rings, and fields.

Prerequisite: MATH 311W.

Class Meetings: MWF 3:35–4:25, 307 Boucke.

Instructor: Prof. Winnie Li, 326 McAllister Building, 865-1669.

Email: wli@math.psu.edu.

Webpage: <http://www.math.psu.edu/wli>.

Office Hours: MWF 2:30-3:25 and by appointment.

Text: *A first course in Abstract Algebra with applications*, by J. Rotman.

Exams and Homework: There will be two in-class exams on the following date:

- Exam I: Wednesday, February 18 (in class)
- Exam II: Friday, April 3 (in class)

and one comprehensive final exam to be scheduled by the university. No make-up exams will be given. If you cannot take it on the announced date, talk to the instructor at least 24 hours BEFORE the exam to make an arrangement. Homework will be assigned in each class with specified due date. Roughly speaking, it will be collected once per week. No late homework will be accepted without prior permission of the instructor. It is also up to the discretion of the grader to decide how much penalty to impose. The homework problems will be posted on the instructor's webpage. The two lowest homework scores will be dropped.

Grading policy: Grades will be assigned on the basis of 500 points distributed as follows:

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| 100 points (20%) | Exam I |
| 100 points (20%) | Exam II |
| 150 points (30%) | Final |
| 150 points (30%) | Homework |

Academic Integrity: All Penn State policies regarding ethics and honorable behavior apply to this course.

“Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing,...facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students...A student charged with academic dishonesty will be given oral or written notice of the charge by the instructor. If students believe that they have been falsely accused, they should seek redress through informal discussions with the instructor, the department

head, dean or campus executive officer. If the instructor believes that the infraction is sufficiently serious to warrant the referral of the case to Judicial Affairs, or if the instructor will award a final grade of *F* in the course because of the infraction, the student and instructor will be afforded formal due process procedures.” From *Policies and Rules, Student Guide to the University*, Policy 49–20.