Math 432: Abstract Algebra

Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Sparks
Office: Gaige 361
Office Hours: Mondays 11:00-11:45AM, Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30AM
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Text: *Elements of Modern Algebra* (seventh edition) by Gilbert and Gilbert

Exam Dates: February 17, March 24, and April 21.

Policies:

1. Please note that each test must be taken at the scheduled time and place unless truly extreme circumstances (with appropriate documentation) prevail and are discussed with me ahead of time. I do not give so-called “make-ups.”

2. In-class assignments cannot be made up if missed, no exceptions.

3. Late assignments will be marked downward or not accepted.

Notes on the Course: Abstract Algebra is one of the cornerstones of mathematics, and is perhaps one of the most theoretical courses you will have in your undergraduate curriculum. We will study groups, rings, and fields. Familiar number systems will be used to assist us as we cover these abstract systems. As is necessary in such a theoretical math course, we will cover, and you will be expected to prove many facts. This is an important facet of this stage of mathematics, and will be taken most seriously. Day-to-day coverage is cumulative, and it always happens that what we do on one day depends critically on all that has gone before. It is hence more important than ever to keep up and seek help immediately if you get stuck on something.

Evaluation and Grading: These will be based on the following:

1. Three in-class exams: Each worth 20% of the term grade. *(February 17, March 24, and April 21)*.

2. Homework and in-class assignments: Worth 10% of the term grade. You must show work and make an effort to try all problems in order to get credit on each assignment. (The homework will count as one in-class assignment.)

3. Final Exam: Cumulative, worth 30% of the term grade.

Drop Date: The last day to drop this course by RICConnect is Friday, April 2. I will allow drops if I have received a request, in writing, by 5:00PM on April 9. I will not allow any drops after April 9.

Departmental Outcomes and Professional Standards: Students in a teacher education program who successfully complete this course will know and be able to meet the following Department outcomes and professional standards:

- Math/CS Department outcomes: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1.
- NCTM Standards grades 5-8: 1.5.1, 1.5.7, 1.5.8.
- NCTM Standards grades 9-12: 1.5.1, 1.5.8, 1.5.9, 1.5.14.
- Rhode Island Beginning Teacher Standards: 2.1, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7
Any student with special needs or circumstances which will affect the course should bring them to my attention at the start of the term.