

COURSE SYLLABUS
MATH 720
FALL 2003

Welcome to Math 720, my name is Jim Coykendall, and I will be your instructor for this course. My office is 306 Minard Hall, and my office hours this semester will be from 5:30-8:00am and from 9am-10am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Also I have hours from 1pm-2:30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays and (mostly) from 1pm-3pm on Tuesdays. If my hours are inconvenient then email me (Jim.Coykendall@ndsu.nodak.edu) or give me a call (office 231-8079, home 280-7086). Another good resource for this course is my homepage, which can be found at <http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/coykenda/>

In general, you may consider my office an open door, and I strongly recommend that you come and see me if you are having any trouble in class (or if you find that you are not being challenged enough). Come by...I enjoy seeing my students.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: First semester graduate algebra. Some of the topics covered in the first semester will be groups and the structure of groups (through various points of view), Sylow Theorems, group actions, free groups and free products, elementary ring theory, factorization, polynomials and power series, and time permitting, some module theory.

GOALS: To impart an appreciation of abstract algebra from both an applied and pure point of view as well as to help the students gain competence with this essential tool of mathematics.

TEXTBOOK: The primary text will be Hungerford's "Algebra". Other good references for this course are "Basic Algebra" (Volumes I and II) by Jacobson, "Topics in Algebra" by Herstein, "Commutative Rings" by Kaplansky, and "Theory of Groups" by Hall.

HOMEWORK: Homework will be collected (approximately) weekly. Your homework average will be 50% of your grade.

EXAMS: There will be two midterms (together comprising 25% of your grade) and a final exam worth 25% of your grade.

GRADES: Here is a breakdown of the quizzes/exams/final:

Homework Average...	50%
Midterm 1...	12.5%
Midterm 2...	12.5%
Final...	25%

If you get the following scores (out of 100) you will receive:

90-100...	A
80-89...	B
70-79...	C
60-69...	D

SPECIAL NEEDS: Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in the course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>).

I wish you the best of luck in this course, please stop by and keep me posted on how you are doing.