

SYLLABUS
Winter, 2012
Math 545-01
Abstract Algebra I
JB-383

Instructor: J. Paul Vicknair

Office: JB 315

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Office Hours: noon-1 pm TTh, 5-6 pm MW; and, by appointment.

Text: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra, 7th Edition* by Joseph A. Gallian

Prerequisite: Math 331, 345 and 355

Grading:	6	20 point assignments
	2	100 point exams
	1	200 point final exam
	2	Presentations (see Note #3 below)

Only the 5 highest of the 20 point assignments will be counted. These assignments will consist mainly of problems from the text. The 1st test will be given during the 5th week of the term while the 2nd will occur during the 9th week. The final exam, which is comprehensive, is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 10-11:50 pm.

The grading scale will be: 90-100% A, 75-89% B, 60-74 % C, 50-59% D. The “+” and “-“ will occur at the fringes of the scale.

Content: Abstract Algebra consists of three main concepts: groups, rings and fields. Though all three will be defined, the focus of this course will be the study of groups. Math 546 typically covers rings and fields in detail. For this course, we will examine the elementary properties of groups, examples of specific types of groups, the notion of subgroups, the formation of new groups from existing ones, and functions from one group to another.

Coverage: We will cover as much of Chapters 2-11 of the text as time permits.

Notes:

1. Should you require an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this class please contact me as well as the Office for Services to Students with Disabilities at UH-183, 537-5238.
2. Please see the “Academic Regulations” on pages 46-57 in the *CSUSB Bulletin of Courses, 2011-2012* for the university’s policies on course withdrawal, cheating and plagiarism. Also, on page 53 from the *Bulletin* there are the statements “Undergraduate students may only repeat courses if they earned grades lower than a “C”. This policy (which went into effect as of Fall 2009) applies to any grade earned at CSUSB at any time.”

3. Each student will be expected to come by my office once during the quarter to present an assigned problem. Also, each student will be expected to present to the class at least one problem at the blackboard. Failure to satisfy these requirements will result in a lowering of one's grade by at most $2/3$ of a letter.
4. Homework problems will be assigned at the end of almost every class, but they will not be collected. It is important that you work as many of these as possible.
5. All electronic devices should be turned off during class sessions, quizzes and exams.
6. Do not fall behind in this course. If you find yourself falling behind or having difficulties with the material, please come see me during office hours.
7. The library contains many excellent texts (both elementary and advanced) on abstract algebra and, in particular, group theory.
8. January 16 is Martin Luther King Day (CSUSB is closed)
January 30 is the last day to drop classes without record.
March 19 is the last day of classes for the Winter Quarter