

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**MATH 113: INTRODUCTION TO ABSTRACT ALGEBRA**  
**SECTION 1 — SUMMER 2021**

CLASS INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Jamie Conway

**E-Mail:** conway@berkeley.edu

**Zoom link:** Click here, or use: meeting ID 967 1902 4950, password 13670

**Class Times:** Mon–Thurs 10AM–12PM Pacific Time

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Course Website:** <https://jiconway.com/class>

**bCourses Website:** <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1505907>

**Piazza Website:** <https://piazza.com/berkeley/summer2021/math113>

**Gradescope Website:** <https://www.gradescope.com/courses/274242>

There is no required text for this course; any of several algebra textbooks will be great. The course has been listed as requiring Fraleigh’s *A first course in abstract algebra* or Artin’s *Algebra* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), but you may also find these useful: *Abstract Algebra* by Dummit and Foote and *Abstract Algebra* by Thomas Judson (the latter is free online here). We will plan to cover material in chapters 2, 6, 7, 11–15 of Artin, all of which is contained in every textbook. The relevant sections will be posted on the course website, and scans of the homework questions will be made available.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

**Homework:** Homework is assigned weekly by the end of the week and will be due on the following Wednesday on Gradescope (by midnight on Wednesday night/Thursday morning). On week 4 and week 8, a shorter homework will be due earlier in the week; look for announcements with details. Late homework will *not be accepted under any circumstances*. If your homework is late, it will not be graded. In case of illness or extenuating circumstances, you must contact me as soon as possible. If you have DSP accommodations, please see below.

Please work together, including discussing homework together; however, you *must* write up your own solutions. Indicate on your homework with whom you worked, if anyone. Plagiarism, copying (from classmates, notes, the internet etc.) are not tolerated. No books, notes, or any electronic devices (including but not limited to calculators and phones) are allowed during the examinations.

**Midterm and Final:** We will have one take-home midterm and one take-home final exam. The midterm will cover group theory, and the final will cover rings and fields (that is, it’s not cumulative). Because the final is not cumulative, there will be no “clobbering policy” (= grade replacement). Each assessment will be on Gradescope, and you will have 24 hours to find the time to take it; the clock on Gradescope will start when you open the assessment. If you have DSP accommodations, please see below.

**Important Dates:** I reserve the right to adjust the midterm date if needed (with plenty of notice).

- *Midterm:* Thursday, July 15
- *Final Exam:* Thursday, August 12

**Grading Scheme:** Your final grade will be computed as follows.

- Homework (drop lowest): 30%
- Midterm: 35%
- Final Exam: 35%

Other grading options may be introduced at my discretion.

#### CLASS POLICIES

**Honour Code:** All students are expected to act honourably and not cheat. Any evidence of cheating or other violations will be submitted directly to the appropriate authority. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: using an unapproved calculator, books, or any form of notes on tests or quizzes; copying directly from any source, including friends, classmates, tutors, or a solutions manual; allowing another person to copy your work; submitting an assessment in someone else's name, or having someone else submit in your name; or asking for a regrade of a paper that has been altered from its original form.

**Attendance:** Your attendance is not required, but I strongly encourage you to come and actively participate in every lecture and office hour. Class recordings and notes will be made available (linked from bCourses), and you are responsible for all missed material, assignments, and any announcements made in class. Class disruptions of any kind will not be tolerated and may result in your removal from the virtual classroom.

**Regrading:** If an error in grading has been made, you must submit a regrade request on Gradescope. Check your answers with the posted solutions before submitting a regrade request. If you feel like your regrade request wasn't fairly handled, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Students with Disabilities and/or in need of Special Accommodations:** UC Berkeley complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you are in need of classroom or testing accommodations, please make an appointment with the DSP office to discuss the appropriate procedures. More information is available on their website: <http://dsp.berkeley.edu>. Please also make an appointment with me to discuss your accommodation, if necessary, no later than one week into the semester.

**Announcements:** I will frequently update the class page on my website with class information and new materials. You are responsible for making sure you are up to date with all this. I will also send out announcements to the class via bCourses, so please make sure you receive these announcements in your e-mail.

**Additional Help:** You are encouraged to work together with other students in the class, and make use of my office hours.

#### FINAL CAVEAT

Note that items on the syllabus are subject to change. Any changes will be relayed to the students in class and through bCourses announcements.