

Modern Algebra I
MA 541 A1
Fall 2009

Professor: Robert Pollack
Office: MCS 232
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Office hours: Monday 1–2; Thursday 2:30–3:30, 5–6
Lecture: Tuesday, Thursday 3:30–5; MCS 148

Text: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra (7th Ed.)*, Joseph A. Gallian, (Houghton Mifflin), 2010.

[You may use the 6th edition of this book if you wish, but make sure the HW exercises haven't changed!]

Website: The web page for the course located at:

<http://math.bu.edu/people/rpollack/Teach/541fall109.html>

Homework assignments will be posted on this website along with other information for the course.

Homework: (an essential part of the course!)

- Problem sets will be assigned weekly and are due in class each Tuesday.
- Two to three randomly selected questions will be graded from each week's homework.
- The bottom *two* homework grades will be dropped.
- You are encourage to work together on problem sets. **However, each student must write-up their own problem sets in their own words, notation, etc.**

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. The dates of the exams are listed below:

Midterm	Tuesday, October 20nd	In class
Final exam	Wednesday, December 16th	3–5 in TBA

Course grading: Your final grade will be computed using the following breakdown:

- Homework: 30%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final: 40%
- Class participation: 5%

Outside help: Diane Meuser runs a help session on Tuesday nights (7:30–10:30) for math classes of *all levels*. The sessions take place in West Campus. See:

<http://math.bu.edu/people/dmm/FacRes/mathhelp.html>

for more information.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest:

- Late homeworks are not accepted.
- Make-up exams are only given in the case of serious illness.
- Incompletes are rarely given and only for extreme situations.

Academic honesty policy: Given the sterling qualities of character to be found in each and every student at Boston University, it is certainly unnecessary to mention that plagiarism and cheating are not only dishonest and immoral, but are also against the policies of Boston University. Please keep in mind that, in the highly unlikely event that you do choose to plagiarize or cheat, you will be referred immediately to the University Academic Standards Committee for disciplinary action.