Material: This course will cover the basic algebraic structures of groups, rings and fields, with emphasis on applications to elementary coding theory, generating functions, and (difficult) coloring problems. We will cover most of Part IV of Biggs.

Grading: There will be 2 in-class exams and 1 final. The in-class exams each count for 20% of the grade, the final counts for 20%, homework counts for 30%, and quizzes count for 10%. Quizzes will be given in the beginning of the discussion section. The only acceptable excuses for missing an exam or quiz are legal reasons such as jury duty, substantiated illness, family emergency or religious reasons. Unacceptable excuses include oversleeping an exam or having non-refundable plane tickets for the day of an exam. Make-up exams for in-class exams and make-up quizzes are not given. If you miss an in-class exam for an acceptable reason, your remaining in-class exam will count for 40% of your grade. Similar re-weighting applies to quizzes missed for acceptable reasons.

Homework: Homework will be due one week after it is assigned. Late homework will not be accepted. Since the answers to many problems are in the back of the book and on the web, you must give complete answers on all problems to receive credit. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of doing the homework problems – I think it is impossible to do well in the course without keeping up with the homework. You are welcome to work with others on your homework.

Cheating: Boston University's policies on cheating and plagiarism are spelled out in the CAS Academic Conduct Code, available at CAS 105, and will be followed in this class.

Important Dates: The last day to withdraw from the course without a W on your transcript is Friday, October 6. The last day to withdraw at all is Friday, October 27. Tuesday, October 10, is a BU Monday – no class for us. The first in-class exam will be approximately on October 5, and the second in-class exam will be approximately on November 2.

Final Exam: Saturday, December 16, 3-5 p.m.

Extra help: The Math Tutoring Room (MCS 144) is open roughly 9 am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday; check the Tutoring Room door for the precise schedule. In addition, Prof. Diane Meuser holds Math Help Sessions in Claffin Hall Lobby on Monday nights from 7:30 to 10:30; for more info, see http://math.bu.edu/people/dmm.