Math 817: Introduction to Modern Algebra I  
Fall 2012

Instructor: Professor Tom Marley
Office: Avery 305. My office hours are 12:30-1:30 Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 on Wednesdays and 1:30-2:30 on Thursdays. If you have a question and you see in me in my office, don’t be shy about asking me for help if it is not one of my scheduled office hours. Likewise, I will let you know if I am too busy to help you and we can schedule an appointment for another time.
Phone: 402-472-7250
Email: tmarley@unl.edu This is the most reliable way to reach me when I’m not in my office and is in general a much better way to leave messages for me than by voice mail.
Web: http://www.math.unl.edu/~tmarley1/math817 I will post all handouts, homework, and exams on this page.

Text: Abstract Algebra, by D. Dummit and R. Foote.

Prerequisites: An undergraduate course in algebra. Essentially, I assume you are familiar with basic set theory, elementary properties of the integers (e.g., modular arithmetic) and standard techniques of proof (such as induction). Most of this can be found in Chapter Zero of the text.

Syllabus: My plan this semester is to cover (hopefully) the first 8 chapters of the text, with some omissions.

Homework: There will be homework due most Fridays. The assignments will be made on Friday and posted on the course web page (linked from the course listed above). Your homework score will comprise 30% of your final grade. [Note: To limit requests to turn in late homework, everyone will be allowed one opportunity to hand in an assignment at most one day late (or in the case of a Friday due date, you can turn it in the following Monday). After that, no late homework will be accepted.]

Exams: There will be two midterm exams given during the semester, dates to be determined. (It usually works best if we can hold these exams outside the normal class period to allow for more time.) There will also be a two-hour final exam on Tuesday, December 11th, 10am – noon, in AvH 111. These exams will comprise 20%, 20%, and 30%, respectively, of your final grade.