Math 371: Section 001, Fall 2006
MWF 9:00 – 9:50, 121 TMCB

Instructor: Rod Forcade – 316 TMCB
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Office Hours: M 2-3, WF 2-4, TuTh 9-9:50
(Other times by appointment or happenstance.)

Text: Abstract Algebra by I. N. Herstein.

Procedure and Grading: We will cover chapters 1 to 4. Homework, consisting largely of proofs, will constitute fifteen percent of your grade. There will be three mid-terms, to be given at the end of Chapters 1, 2 and 3 respectively. The mid-terms will be given in class and will be announced a week in advance. Each mid-term will count twenty percent of your grade, and the final exam, which will be comprehensive, will count twenty-five percent of your grade. Each part, homework and tests, will be assigned a percentage grade, and those percentages will be combined in a weighted average to compute your final grade. The grading scale will be 90 to 100%, A- to A; 80 to 89.9%, B- to B+; 70 to 79.9% C- to C+; and 60 to 69.9%, D- to D+. The final exam will be in 121 TMCB on Wed. Dec. 20th, from 7:00 to 10:00 am., and will be comprehensive.

Remarks. Groups, rings and fields are the fundamental objects of modern algebra as it is currently used in the sciences, mathematics, cryptography, computer algorithms and network design, etc. The subject is called “abstract algebra” because mathematicians like working in the greatest possible generality – to avoid doing the same problem over and over. Thus the homework assigned will not be repetitive. Each problem may require a new idea. Doing homework with several other people is a good idea, since it tends to generate more imaginative ideas.

Math 371, unfortunately, is only half of the picture. Much of this material leads into Galois theory, which was aimed at some of the classic problems in mathematics (solving polynomial equations, etc.). Thus, you should take Math 372, as well.

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1. Harassment

Harassment of any kind is inappropriate at BYU. Specifically, BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination, or other inappropriate behavior, please talk to your professor, contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689, or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

2. Disabilities

BYU is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may adversely affect your success in this course, please contact the University Accessibility Center at 422-2767. Services deemed appropriate will be coordinated with the student and instructor by that office.