

**Math 370 (Algebra),  
Spring 2015  
TR 1:30-3:00pm, DRL 4C8  
University of Pennsylvania**

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**Instructor:** William Simmons, DRL 4C3, [wsimmo@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:wsimmo@sas.upenn.edu).

**Tentative Schedule for Office Hours (held in DRL 4C3):** : Mondays 11 a.m.-noon; Wednesdays 1-2 p.m.; others, time permitting, by appointment. My Wednesday office hours serve both our course and Math 103, so to be fair I will focus on Math 370 during the first half-hour and on 103 during the second. You are welcome to come during the latter half-hour, but you may have to wait a few minutes if calculus students are there.

**Teaching assistant:** Ben Albert, DRL 3N2A, [benal@math.upenn.edu](mailto:benal@math.upenn.edu); office hours TBA.

**Class website and Canvas:** The page [www.math.upenn.edu/~wsimmo/Math370,AbstractAlgebra.html](http://www.math.upenn.edu/~wsimmo/Math370,AbstractAlgebra.html) will serve as our main class website. Look there for homework assignments and other course documents.

We will use the Canvas system (<https://canvas.upenn.edu>) only for announcements and for posting scores. Be sure to choose the option of accepting emails from Canvas about announcements.

**Textbook:** Peter Petersen, *Linear Algebra*, Springer, 2012.

**Exam and other important dates:**

- Add deadline: Monday, Feb. 2.
- First midterm: Thursday, Feb. 12, in class
- Drop deadline: Friday, Feb. 20.
- Second midterm: Thursday, Mar. 19, in class
- Withdrawal deadline: Friday, Mar. 27.
- Last day of classes: Wednesday, April 29.
- Final exam: Tuesday, May 12, 9:00-11:00 am, location TBA.

**Homework:** Weekly homework is generally due at the beginning of class on Thursdays; any changes will be announced through Canvas. *Late work will not be accepted, so please talk to me ahead of time if you face a legitimate extenuating circumstance.*

**Quizzes:** A number of times throughout the term there will be an unannounced quiz at the end of class or recitation session. The quizzes will be short (15 minutes at most), cover recent

material (from the last homework assignment and last class meeting or two), and are intended to be straightforward if you are keeping up. You may not use notes or electronic devices on the quizzes.

**Exams:** The midterms are held in class on the dates indicated above. You may not use notes or electronic devices on any of the exams.

**Grades:** Your grade will be determined by the following breakdown:

- 15% homework, 15% quizzes, 40% midterms, 30% final

Actual letter grades are calculated as follows:

- A: Earned 85% or more of available points
- A-: Earned between 80 and 84% of available points
- B+: Earned between 75 and 79% of available points
- B: Earned between 70 and 74% of available points
- B-: Earned between 65 and 69% of available points
- C+: Earned between 60 and 64% of available points
- C: Earned between 55 and 59% of available points
- C-: Earned between 50 and 54% of available points
- D+: Earned between 45 and 49% of available points
- D: Earned between 40 and 44% of available points
- F: Below 40% of available points

I will shift the scale down if necessary so that at least 30% of students receive an A or A-. Errors in recording and/or grading must be brought up within a week of the assignment being returned. Grades are fully determined by the numbers, so please don't request exceptions.

### **Academic Honesty:**

- You must write up your own work so that it represents your own understanding. You are welcome to study together, talk about problems with others, look at math resources online, etc., BUT you need to write your final solution on your own (i.e., NO COPYING, whether it be another student's solution or something online). You should also not allow your own work to be copied. Likewise, work on exams must be your own.
- Infractions will result in loss of credit for the exam or assignment and, depending on the situation, university discipline. For more details, see <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/>.

### **You and Your Work**

- (Homework) Write neatly and show all relevant work needed to understand your thought process. Incomprehensible and/or messy answers may not receive credit. The course is more theoretical than some others you have taken and the emphasis is on clear written explanations rather than explicit calculation. Be sure to use complete sentences and correct grammar in your work.
- (Background knowledge) You don't need much particular knowledge, but some exposure to elementary linear algebra (operations with vectors and matrices, etc., like you had in Math 240) will help you get going faster. Though we don't assume experience with abstract mathematics, one of our main goals is to increase your comfort with reading and writing basic proofs. Most of all, you need to be curious about mathematics and be willing to think through the material we discuss.
- (Getting help) Study the assigned material before class. Find out what you don't understand, and bring questions! Beyond that, be sure to take full advantage of office hours (both mine and Ben's) as well as recitation sessions. Talk to me early when challenges arise so that we can figure out how you will achieve success with the material.
- (Accommodations) Please talk to me as soon as possible about accommodations through Student Disabilities Services (Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300, <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/sds/>), scheduling conflicts with religious holidays, athletic events, etc., or working around health issues and other situations.