

# MATH 4000/6000: Abstract Algebra Fall 2009

**Instructor:** William Graham

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**Office hours:** To be announced.

**Meeting times and location:** Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45 PM, Boyd Room 303

**Final Exam:** Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, 8:00-11:00 pm (in our usual meeting place)

**Text:** Shifrin, *Abstract Algebra: A Geometric Approach*

**Grading:** There will 2 midterms, during weeks 5 and 10 (approximately) of the semester, and a final exam. Grades will be computed by:

Homework: 25 %

Midterms: 40 %

Final: 35 %

Homework will be collected approximately weekly. Selected problems will be graded.

**Purpose of the course:** Abstract algebra is a fascinating subject. It is connected with many old and famous problems – trisecting angles, solving polynomial equations – and is a foundation for further study in mathematics. The goals of this course are to teach you how to do proofs and solve problems – how to think mathematically.

Homework is an important part of the course. It is impossible to learn a subject like mathematics without spending a substantial amount of time thinking about it, and that means homework! Because every problem is unique, the solution to something done in class may not directly help you in a homework problem. However, feel free to ask me questions or for hints about the homework problems. You may also discuss homework problems with your fellow students, but you should try the problems on your own before talking about them with anyone else. You must write up solutions on your own, without looking at another solution. Copying another solution is academic dishonesty and violates the UGA Academic Honesty Policy, which is available at

<http://www.uga.edu/honesty>

Homework assignments will consist of basic problems, which you are not supposed to hand in, and core problems, which you must hand in. There will be some additional problems which will be mandatory for MATH 6000 students and extra credit for MATH 4000 students. Homework is due no later than 4:30 pm in my office on the day it is due. Late assignments will generally not be accepted.

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.