Class Meetings: MW 12:30-1:45 pm in EMS E495, September 6 to December 13
[Thanksgiving break November 22 – 26; final exam December 21]

Instructor: Allen Bell
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D2L: Go to http://d2l.uwm.edu/ then log in and find Abstract Algebra I (Math 731).

Text and Topics: There will be no textbook; the class will be based on notes that are available on D2L. The preface of the notes lists some alternative texts. We will begin by going through Chapter 1 quickly, then study the group theory in Chapter 2 and part of Chapter 3. Then we will study Galois theory in Chapter 4.

Office hours: My office hours will be M 2:30-4:45 pm, W 2:30-3:30 pm. You can also see me by appointment or any time you can find me in my office; do not hesitate to talk to me. All times are subject to change and cancelation on some days due to other duties.

Grades: Your grade will be based on the homework and the examinations. The final exam will count roughly 30% of your final grade. The grading scale will be determined based on the class performance (i.e., there will be a curve). See comments below.

Homework: It is crucial that you do the homework. It is impossible to really learn mathematics without doing problems! In addition, your results on the homework will be far and away the most important factor in determining your grade. The notes contain a number of homework problems, both at the end of and in the middle of chapters. Some homework will be collected and graded; you may be asked to present some problems at the board. Most of the problems will not be collected or graded, but we will discuss homework in class whenever you have questions about it, and I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss homework problems. You are free to discuss homework problems among yourselves, but you must do your own work.

Exams: I anticipate that there will be one midterm exam during the regular semester, but I may change my mind about this. I plan to have a comprehensive in-class final exam. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 21 from 10:00 am to noon.

Investment of time: A typical student should expect to spend 150 minutes per week in class and at least six hours per week studying and doing homework. The amount of time you need to spend outside of class may vary considerably from this estimate.

Other information: Links to UWM policies relevant to this class can be found at http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf. Note particularly the statements on academic misconduct and discriminatory conduct, as well as on students with disabilities.

Please turn off and put away cell phones during class.

If you have any special requirements or concerns regarding this course, please let me know as soon as possible. Friday, October 27 is the last day to drop the class with a W on your transcript. For other important dates, see http://uwm.edu/registrar/students/dates-deadlines/