Applied Modern Algebra — Spring 2020
Midterm Survey

Please complete the following survey and bring it to class **Monday Mar 9**, or leave it in my mailbox in PHSC 423 anytime (but preferably before spring break). This survey is meant to be anonymous, so there is no need to write your name. To help with anonymity, I suggest you write in uppercase block letters with a standard black ballpoint pen or #2 pencil. Or if you prefer, you can type on the online pdf and print it out.

If you have a comment/suggestion/question you would like feedback on (now or at anytime in the course), you may do one of the following depending on how much anonymity you want: (i) ask for feedback and write your name on the survey, (ii) email me/talk to me in person, or (iii) ask for feedback on the survey without writing your name, and I'll try to reply to everyone in lecture if I feel it's appropriate.

For "multiple choice" questions, circle the most appropriate answer and/or write in your own comments.

1. The lectures on the (non-mathematical part of) cryptography are:

   too easy fine too hard

2. The lectures on the mathematical parts of the course (modular arithmetic, groups, etc) are:

   too easy fine too hard

3. The programming components of the course are:

   too easy fine too hard

4. Keeping up with the three different aspects of the course (cryptography theory, mathematical theory, coding—I know, it's a lot!) is

   not a problem a bit difficult, but manageable too difficult/stressful

5. How helpful do you find the computer labs for going through the lab worksheets?

   not helpful at all a little helpful quite helpful

6. How worried are you about your grade in this course? (relative to how much you worry about this is most classes)

   not very the normal amount a lot

7. What is your favorite part of the course so far?

8. What is your least favorite part of the course so far?

9. What is your overall impression of the course?

10. Do you have any suggestions for how I can make the in-class computer labs more useful for you, or otherwise provide better support for your programming assignments?

11. After we finish RSA, my plan is to briefly discuss primality testing and factorization algorithms, and then the very basics of error-correcting codes, and then we have some flexibility in the choice of topics. Is there anything related to algebra/cryptography/coding theory/etc that you would especially like to cover?

12. Any additional comments or suggestions?