# Algebraic number theory (Spring 2013) – Supplementary evaluations

Frank Thorne, thorne@math.sc.edu

*Please offer your input on this semester's course, with particular attention to aspects which are most under my control. In short – please let me know what you would do differently next time, and what you would keep the same!*

*Some questions are listed below, but please ignore the questions if they don't reflect the feedback you would like to give.*

1. Were the pace, and background assumed in the lectures a good match for your background? If no, please explain.

2. Did the topics covered correspond to what you would like to see? A couple topics we did cover that could have been left out: the theory of valuations; the proofs of finiteness of the class number and the unit theorem. A couple topics we might have covered instead: more about the connection to analytic number theory (Gauss sums, Tate's thesis, ...); more emphasis on numerical examples; more on adeles and ideles, class field theory and the advanced reaches of the theory; more on the relation to classical questions involving Diophantine equations and so on.

3. We did not follow any textbook exactly, although we could have. Would it have been helpful to stick to a single source?

4. Was the homework appropriately challenging, interesting, and did you feel prepared for it? Were there any types of questions you would have liked to have seen more of?

5. (*Optional, but please consider answering if it doesn't make you uncomfortable.*) If you didn't do enough of the homework to earn an A, what was the obstacle?

   If you had other priorities (e.g. finishing a thesis), or decided that you are not all that interested in algebraic number theory, then that can't be helped. If neither of these is the case, your feedback will be very helpful next time I plan a similar course.