Syllabus   Math 310 Intro to Modern Algebra

Instructor: Dr. Alexandra Seceleanu

> **Office hours:** MW 12:30-1:30 pm in 338 Avery Hall
> you may also stop by any time my office door is open or email to make an appointment.

> **Email:** aseceleanu2@math.unl.edu

Class Times and Location: MWF 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m., Oldfather Hall Room 308.

Web Page: Blackboard

Text: *A Concrete Introduction to Higher Algebra, 3rd Edition* by Lindsay Childs.

Course Description: There are two primary goals in this course:

- The first goal is to learn to write clear, logical proofs and solutions to problems. Of paramount importance will be your ability to clearly communicate mathematics.
- The second goal is to understand properties of the integers and of polynomials, including the overarching algebraic framework that applies to both.

ACE Outcome 3: This course satisfies ACE Outcome 3: "Use mathematical, computational, statistical, or formal reasoning (including reasoning based on principles of logic) to solve problems, draw inferences, and determine reasonableness." Your instructor will provide examples, you will discuss them in class, and you will practice with numerous homework problems. The exams will test how well you have mastered the material. The final exam will be the primary means of assessing your achievement of ACE Outcome 3.

Grades: Grades for the course will be computed as follows:

Homework = 25%   Quizzes = 5%   Class Participation = 5%   Midterms = 2×20%   Final = 25%

Homework: Homework exercises will be assigned periodically. Assignments and due dates will be announced in class. Late homework will not be accepted.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given occasionally. They will be announced in class during the class period previous to the one in which the quiz is to be taken. Your lowest 2 scores will be dropped.

Class participation: is based on **front row duty** performance. Each week a group of students will have the duty of being seated in the front row and answering any question that may arise during class. These questions will typically be on either homework exercises or concepts that have been taught previously. Students will be assigned to groups alphabetically. The groups will rotate weekly for front row duty.

Exams: There will be two in-class midterm exams and a final. Makeup midterms will only be offered under extraordinary circumstances (such as serious illness). Proof of these circumstances will be required. The makeup exam policy is that students taking a makeup exam have had more time to study and therefore makeup exams will be similar but more difficult than the regular exams.

Final Exam Policy: Students are expected to arrange their personal and work schedules to allow them to take the final exam at the scheduled time. Students who have conflicting exam schedules may be allowed to take an alternate final which is always given after the regularly scheduled final. No student will be allowed to take the final exam early. The final exam is on Monday, April 30, 10:00-12:00 noon in 308 Oldfather Hall.

Department Grading Policy: Students who believe their academic evaluation has been prejudiced or capricious have recourse for appeals to (in order) the instructor, the department chair, the departmental appeals committee, and the college appeals committee.