

HOMEWORK RULES
Math 3240, Fall 2009

Here are the conditions to keep in mind when preparing homework.

- (1) Staple everything together.
- (2) Each new exercise must begin on a new sheet of paper.
- (3) The exercises must be submitted in numerical order.
- (4) In the margin near the start of each exercise, the person who wrote it up must clearly write his or her name (no initials, please).
- (5) At least two people in each group should work separately on each problem before meeting to discuss it. This is particularly important for numerical problems, but applies to other exercises also.
- (6) If you have written a solution, show it to at least one other person in the group and have them read it and judge whether it makes sense. If it doesn't, rewrite the solution so it is clearer.
- (7) This is not a forum for creative submissions on ripped paper written around the margins with huge crossouts in the middle and scribbled writing. Submit a sensible final draft of your solutions, not a first draft.
- (8) You're responsible for knowing how to solve each problem on the homework, whether or not you wrote it up, so keep in touch with others in your group to stay on top of all the material.

What are the reasons for these rules?

- (1) Stapled papers have a smaller chance of being separated (and lost) than papers held together with a paper clip or something worse.
- (2) Beginning on a new sheet of paper makes it simpler for the problems to be located when being graded.
- (3) Placing solutions in numerical order also makes it simpler for the problems to be located when being graded.
- (4) It is desirable that one person not be taking charge of most solutions all the time. (If you make only a minimal contribution to the homework, you won't have learned the ideas of the course well and may get creamed on the exams as a result.) There should be some variation in who prepares solutions, and seeing who is doing the writing will indicate this.
- (5) Two people doing separate work on the same task can serve as a check on each other's work.