

Algebraic Structures 1

MATH 210A – Fall 2020

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"I believe creativity and tenacity are two of the most beneficial traits to develop, not only as a mathematician, but as a human being. Creativity is the ability to imagine new possibilities and tenacity is the necessary skill to realize those possibilities. Develop your creativity by actively and constantly exposing yourself to new ideas, people, and experiences. Develop your tenacity by constantly creating new challenges for yourself. With enough creativity and tenacity nearly anything is possible." - **Raymond T. Perkins III**

Welcome! I can't wait to meet you all and start our work together. Please let me know if you have any questions at all (about our course or anything else).

📍 **Location.** Our class meets via Zoom; details and links are on [the course Canvas page](#).

📖 **Book.** *Abstract Algebra*, Third Edition; by David Dummit and Richard Foote.

📅 **Typical Day.** A typical class meeting will consist of lecture and discussion.

✅ **Prerequisites.** MATH 110B or equivalent (second-semester undergraduate algebra).

⚙️ **Learning Objectives.** Students will (1) develop competency with various algebraic structures (e.g. groups and rings) for further work in mathematics and other fields, (2) improve their communication of mathematics, and (3) develop the skills and mindset for solving problems in a team.

👥 **Community Agreement.** Members of this class represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. Our class commits to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity and recognizes it as a source of strength. While working together to build this intellectual community, we ask all members to:

- share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs;
- be open to the views of others and honor the uniqueness of their colleagues;
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community; and
- value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner.

We will further develop this agreement together in class.

Course Components

Regular Homework. There will be regular homework assignments posted in Canvas.

- Each assignment consists of required problems and recommended problems. The required problems must be turned in to me and will be graded. Please do not turn in recommended problems, but I am most happy to discuss them. Working through and understanding the recommended problems will significantly boost your understanding of the material.
- You are allowed and encouraged to work together. Please write up your solutions on your own.
- Required problems are to be submitted via Canvas, typically due **Sundays** by 7PM. You may handwrite and scan your solutions or type them up. Your work should be well-organized and fully-justified with proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. I'm happy to discuss any aspect of any problem, inclusive of the mathematics and the writing.

Writing Assignments. Most weeks you will be asked to revisit a previous homework problem to revise and polish your solution. This must be typed up with \LaTeX .

- Proficiency with \LaTeX is one aim of the course—I will support you as much as needed!
- You are *allowed and encouraged* to collaborate with one other person on this, in which case you and your partner may turn in the same document with both of your names on it.
- Please take great care not to plagiarize someone else's work!
- Writing Assignments are to be submitted via Canvas, typically due **Sundays** by 7PM.

Participation. Our class will benefit greatly from the perspective, questions, and comments of each student. I will try to make space for various ways to bring your voice to our class, but your grade for this component will be based on your participation in Discussions taking place in Canvas.

Exams. There are 2 take-home midterm exams. They are *tentatively* scheduled to start on Oct. 10 and Nov. 13, each due three days later. There is also a take-home Final Exam. It will be due at the end of our final exam time: Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 3:00 PM–5:00 PM

Grade Composition

Homework	20%
Writing Assignments	15%
Participation	15%
Midterm Exams	30% (15% \times 2)
Final	20%

Maximum cutoff for grades: A- 90%, B- 80%, C- 70%, D- 60%, F 59–0%.

Attendance. Please come to class as much as possible! Our community will benefit greatly from a breadth of perspectives, and class will provide an opportunity to ask, clarify, and answer questions. However, I know that you all have varied and often challenging things going on in and beyond school, so missed classes will NOT affect your grade. **If you need to miss class, please send me a quick email in advance, so I know what is going on.**

Policy Regarding Late Work. Please strive hard to meet the deadlines, but if you need an extension for any reason, I am always happy to discuss it with you. Health related reasons will always be accommodated. Please send me a quick email as soon as you realize that extra time is needed.

Accommodations. If you know or think that you might need academic adjustments or accommodations, of any kind, please speak with me privately as soon as possible. If you have one, please bring a copy of your accommodation letter from the [Services to Students with Disabilities \(SSWD\)](#) office. All discussions will remain confidential.

Sickness. If you are sick, please do not attend any of your in-person classes, but do let your instructors know. If you are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, loss of smell or taste, nausea, diarrhea, or headache) or have had exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID, please contact [Student Health & Counseling Services \(SHCS\)](#) at 916-278-6461 to receive guidance and/or medical care.

Cheating Cheating will result in disciplinary action and will be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct](#). If you are unsure what constitutes cheating, please speak with me and review Sacramento State's *Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures* document here: www.csus.edu/umannual/student/stu-0100.htm.

Campus Resources

Crisis Assistance & Resource Education Support (CARES). Help is just a visit, a phone call or an email away. The CARES office provides support to students who are in crisis or experiencing unique challenges to their education including food and/or housing insecurity, transportation barriers, mental health & wellness, and much more.

Learn more about your options and resources here: www.csus.edu/student-affairs/crisis-assistance-resource-education-support.

Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD). If you know or think that you have a learning or physical disability, please contact SSWD. SSWD offers a wide range of support services and accommodations for students to ensure students with disabilities have equal access and opportunity to pursue their educational goals.

Learn more here: www.csus.edu/student-affairs/centers-programs/services-students-disabilities/

Student Health and Counseling Services. The first floor (of the WELL) is the walk-in urgent care center for urgent medical and mental health concerns. Cooking classes, nutrition services, alcohol, tobacco and other drug education, violence support services, and peer health education programs are also offered. The second floor is the appointment based clinic for medical appointments and counseling services including groups and individual counseling. Currently enrolled students who pay health fees are eligible to access services. Additional fees may apply to specialty services, procedures, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and supplies.

Confidential counseling services are available for Sacramento State students. Counselors are located on the second floor of the WELL. Appointments can be made 8:00am–5:00pm, Monday–Friday. Call 916-278-6461 or go here shc-pncweb.saclink.csus.edu to make an appointment.

If you are in immediate crisis, please call 9-1-1 or the Suicide Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Learn more here: www.csus.edu/student-life/health-counseling

More Resources. Sacramento State offers many more resources to support you and your peers. Learn more about many of them here: webpages.csus.edu/wiscons/more/SacStateCampusResources.html. And please let me know if you have any questions!