

Math 503: Algebra I

Spring 2024

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Course web page: www.math.binghamton.edu/mazur/teach/50324/50324.html

Office Hours: By appointment.

Textbooks: *Abstract Algebra*, 3rd edition by D.S. Dummit and R.M. Foote.
Group Theory by J. S. Milne. <http://www.jmilne.org/math/CourseNotes/gt.html>

Goal: In this course we will introduce basic ideas and results about groups. We will cover a selection of material from Chapters 1,2,3,4,5,6 of the first textbook and additional topics from the second book. Note that the order and exposition of the material in class will often differ from the presentation in the book. The students are strongly encouraged to consult other books, some of which will be suggested during the lectures.

Homework: Problems will be posed during class time and on the course web page. Students are encouraged to work on as many of them as possible. An assignment consisting of some of the problems will be given on a weekly/biweekly basis. Solutions will be collected and graded. Students may work on the problems in groups but each student should write his/her own solutions.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. Each of them may be a combination of an oral and a written exam. The precise details and dates will be determined later in the semester.

Grading Policy: The final grade will be based on the exam scores and the homework.

Final Remarks: You are expected to attend every scheduled class. You are responsible for behaving in class, taking class notes, doing homework problems, asking for and coming in for help, etc.; in the end, you are responsible for your success in this class so work hard! Late arrivals, early departures, cell phone conversations, eating, or drinking are not appropriate. It is your responsibility to keep informed of all announcements, syllabus adjustments, or policy changes made during scheduled classes. **Both class attendance and systematic work on the homework problems are crucial for the success in this class.**

All the above information is tentative. I reserve the right to make reasonable changes if I find it necessary.