

Math 330 Section 1 - Spring 2026 - Homework 01

Published: Monday, December 15, 2025

Running total: 4 points

Last submission: Friday, February 6, 2026

Status - Reading Assignments:

No status, since this is your first homework assignment.

New reading assignments:

Reading assignment 1 - due: Wednesday, January 21 (FIRST LECTURE):

- a. Review my entire course site. You will find the syllabus (only!) on BrightSpace, but you should get used to go to [THIS LINK](#) instead. Only there you can find, e.g., the homework assignments. I will discuss only some parts of that website on the first day of lecture!
- b. Review MF ch.2.1 (Sets and Basic Set Operations) and ch.2.3 (Numbers). Those chapters are meant for self-study since most if not all of the material found there should be familiar to you. You need to be comfortable with the differences between natural numbers, integers, and rational numbers.

Note that this material is considered general knowledge for anyone who has studied at least one semester of calculus, a prerequisite for this course. I will skip most of that material in class.

- c. Read carefully MF ch.2.2 (The Proper Use of Language in Mathematics: Any vs All, etc.)

Reading assignment 2 - due Friday, January 23:

- a. Read carefully MF ch.2.4 (A First Look at Functions, Sequences and Families). Pay particular attention to the motivational introduction 2.3!
- b. Read carefully MF ch.2.5 (Cartesian Products).
- c. Read carefully MF ch.2.6 (Arbitrary Unions and Intersections). Understand the connections [intersection \rightsquigarrow “for all” quantifier] and [union \rightsquigarrow “for at least one” quantifier].
- d. Read carefully MF ch.3.1 (Semigroups and Groups). through Proposition 3.2. The abstractness of the material in this chapter is typical for what you can expect for large parts of this class! You now are in a position to do the written assignments 2, 3, 4 in this homework set.

Reading assignment 3 - due Monday, January 26:

- a. Read carefully the remainder of MF ch.3.1 (Semigroups and Groups). You now are in a position to do all the written assignments in this homework set.
- b. Read carefully MF ch.3.2 (Commutative Rings and Integral Domains) through Definition 3.9.

Reading assignment 4 - due: Wednesday, January 28:

- a. Read carefully the remainder of MF ch.3.2 (Commutative Rings and Integral Domains).
- b. Read carefully MF ch.3.3 (Arithmetic in Integral Domains).

These reading assignments should be a lot more comfortable for you than the one about groups, since you can visualize what is going on by replacing \oplus and \odot with addition and multiplication of numbers.

Reading assignment 5 - due Friday, January 30:

- a. Read carefully MF ch.3.4 (Order Relations in Integral Domains) until Def.3.13 (Absolute value).
- b. **Optional:** Read B/G ch.2.1 (Natural Numbers) and ch.2.2 (Ordering the Integers) and study again the connections to what you have already learned from MF ch.3! Do B/G axioms 1.1 – 1.5 PLUS ax.2.1 really describe what you know as “integers” or are they more specific or more general than that set of numbers?
- c. Optional, but highly recommended if you lack familiarity with basic set operations and functions with arbitrary domain/codomain: Read the following from the B/K (Bryant/Kirby) lecture notes:
 - ch.1.1 (Introduction to sets)
 - ch.1.2 (Introduction to Functions) but skip ch.1.2.4: Floor and Ceiling Functions

Written assignments:

General note on written assignments: Unless expressly stated otherwise, to prove a proposition or theorem you are allowed to make use of everything in the book **up to but NOT including** the specific item you are asked to prove.

Hint for ALL written assignments:

Before you start this homework set you must do reading assignment 2. If you understand MF ch.3.1 through Proposition 3.4, then you have everything you need to work on those exercises.

Written assignment 1: Prove MF Exercise 3.2:

Let (G, \diamond) be a commutative group with neutral element e . Let $g, h_1, h_2 \in G$ such that

$$g \diamond h_1 = e \quad \text{and} \quad g \diamond h_2 = e.$$

Prove that $h_1 = h_2$.

Hints for assignments #2 and #3:

- a. You do not have commutativity as a tool and that is a good thing: the variables appear in the same left-to-right order on both sides!
- b. Obviously you'll have to utilize associativity of \diamond to prove #2 and #3. Tell me what you plug in for s, t, u in formula (3.1)!

Written assignment 2: This is MF Exercise 3.3 (a): Let (S, \diamond) be a semigroup. Let $a, b, c, d \in S$. Prove that

$$a \diamond (b \diamond (c \diamond d)) = (a \diamond b) \diamond (c \diamond d).$$

Written assignment 3: This is MF Exercise 3.3 (b): Let (S, \diamond) be a semigroup. Let $a, b, c, d \in S$. Prove that

$$(a \diamond (b \diamond c)) \diamond d = (a \diamond b) \diamond (c \diamond d).$$

Written assignment 4: This is MF Exercise 3.4: Let (S, \diamond) be a commutative semigroup, i.e., S is a semigroup which satisfies $s \diamond t = t \diamond s$ for all $s, t \in S$. Let $a, b, c \in S$. Prove that

$$a \diamond (b \diamond c) = c \diamond (a \diamond b)$$

Do not forget written assignment zero:

Send an email by Monday, January 26, that

- a. lists your math background, including for the current semester(!),
- b. acknowledges that you have read the syllabus posted on the course website and/or on BrightSpace,
- c. tells me why you chose to take this course.