

MATH 653 – ALGEBRA I, FALL 2019
TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS 9:35 TO 10:50 A.M. IN BLOCKER 163

Instructor: Prof. Anne Shiu (annejls@tamu.edu)

Office: Blocker 601E

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30–3:30 p.m. and by appointment (ask one day in advance)

Prerequisites. MATH 415 or the equivalent (and proficiency writing proofs), or instructor approval

Textbook. *Algebra*, Hungerford. We will cover most of Chapter 1–3 and, if time permits, more topics.

Course description. Survey of groups, rings, and ideals.

Website. <https://math.tamu.edu/~annejls/teaching/653-fall-19.html> (Homework posted here.)

Student expectations. Students will be expected to attend class, read the textbook, and complete homework. For exams, students will be expected to work with key mathematical concepts, write proofs, and understand important definitions and statements of theorems.

Homework. Homework will be due most weeks, usually on Thursday, at the beginning of class. Staple your homework, and remove frayed edges from paper torn from spiral notebooks; otherwise the grader will deduct 20 points. Homework solutions must be clear, well organized, and in the order assigned; otherwise the grader will deduct 10%. **Group work is strongly encouraged**, but you must write up your solutions independently.

Late homework policy. Late homework is *not* accepted (except with a University-approved absence; see Make-up Policy below). However, the lowest homework score will be dropped.

Seminar responses. Students will be required to attend two 50-minute talks on topics related to Algebra, and then to submit a response (several paragraphs) to the following questions: (1) What is the question(s) that motivated this work, and why is it interesting? (2) What is the main result the speaker is conveying, and how does it pertain to your answer to (1)? (3) What aspects of the talk did you like? (4) What parts of the talk were surprising and/or confusing? Some opportunities include the Algebra/Combinatorics Seminar (Fridays), Geometry Seminar (Mondays and Fridays), the Maxson lectures, and Mini-TAGS (Texas Algebraic Geometry Seminar). These responses are due on *December 4*.

Quizzes. Some quizzes will be given (usually on Tuesday). The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Exams. There will be two in-class midterms and one final exam:

- Midterm 1: Thursday, October 3 (Week 6)
- Midterm 2: Thursday, November 7 (Week 11)
- (Cumulative) final exam: Friday, December 6 (12:30–2:30 p.m.)

Copyright Policy. All printed materials disseminated in class or online, including exams, are protected by Copyright laws. Distributing copies or sale of any of these materials is prohibited.

Grading.

- Homework: 20%
- Quizzes: 6%
- Seminar responses: 4%
- Midterm 1: 20%
- Midterm 2: 20%
- Final exam: 30%

Final grades: did you accomplish the learning outcomes?

- A: 90%+
- B: 80–89%
- C: 70–79%
- D: 60–69%
- F: < 60%

The precise cut-offs will be determined when final grades are assigned.

Make-up Policy. No make-up exams or late assignments are possible or accepted without a University-approved excused absence (see <http://studentrules.tamu.edu/rule07>).

To be excused, you must notify the instructor in writing (by email is fine) prior to the date of absence, if possible. *Consistent with Texas A&M Student Rules, in cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. accident or emergency) the student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence.* It is the student's responsibility to schedule a make-up in a timely manner.

If you must miss class, please get notes from another student in the class.

Special Services. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Life. If your performance in the class is negatively affected by your experiences outside of class, please talk to me!

Academic Integrity Statement. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person *or a solutions manual* and turn it in as your own. Any student found guilty of cheating, plagiarism, or other dishonorable acts in academic work is subject to disciplinary action. If you are caught cheating, you will receive a grade of "0" and it could result in your failing the course.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality. Texas A&M University and the College of Science are committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws provide guidance for achieving such an environment. Although class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to student record policies and laws, University employees – including instructors – cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues that jeopardize the health and safety of our community. As the instructor, I must report (per Texas A&M System Regulation 08.01.01) the following information to other University offices if you share it with me, even if you do not want the disclosed information to be shared: *Allegations of sexual assault, sexual discrimination, or sexual harassment when they involve TAMU students, faculty, or staff, or third parties visiting campus.* These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In many cases, it will be your decision whether or not you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Student Counseling Service (<https://scs.tamu.edu/>). Students and faculty can report non-emergency behavior that causes them to be concerned at <http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu>.