

Math 351:03 — Fall 1999  
MW4 SEC-217  
Prof. Bumby

**Contacting the instructor.** The most reliable way to contact me is electronic mail: the address is *bumby@math* from any machine in the *rutgers.edu* domain. My office is Room 438 in Hill Center on the Busch Campus. There is an answering machine on my office phone, so you may leave a telephone message by phoning 445-0277. I will have scheduled *drop-in* office hours from 3 to 4 PM on Wednesday. If these times are not convenient, do not hesitate to ask for an appointment.

**The textbook.** The textbook for this course is I. N. Herstein, *Abstract Algebra*, Third Edition, Prentice-Hall, 1996, (ISBN 0-13-374562-7). The book is short enough that we can aim to cover the whole book, although it will probably be necessary to skip chapter 6.

**Registration information.** If you were not able to register for this course in the normal manner, you should expect that you will be able to register during the Add-Drop period and continue to attend class. You should also write your name at the bottom of the sign-up sheet that I circulate. These sheets are revised daily to reflect current attendance, so you should only need to do this once. The department processes all special requests for registration centrally. Most requests are processed from the department's Home Page on the Web, but graduate students and non-matriculated students must submit applications at the department office in Room 303 of Hill Center.

**The Course Web Page.** Copies of all handouts and material prepared for lectures will be made available on the Web. At some point, this will be linked to "course information" section of the Math Department page, but initially, you should use my personal page to locate the course material. Point your browser at

<http://www.math.rutgers.edu/~bumby>,

or go first to the department home page and use the faculty listing to reach my page.

**Exams and Grading.** Two hour exams are planned for this course, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 13 and Wednesday, November 17. The University expects a final exam to be given and has already reserved 8–11 AM on **Tuesday, December 21** (most likely in the regular classroom) for that purpose. You will also be required to submit written work based on textbook exercises and workshop problems for grading. Grades will be based on a 500 point total: 100 from each hour exam, 150 from the final exam and 150 from graded homework and workshops.

**Workshops.** This course includes a Workshop class that meets on Monday, fifth period in SEC-216. Because of the Labor Day holiday, there will be three classes before the first workshop on September 13. Some lecture time during the second class will also be set aside for discussion.

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**Homework.** Here is a list giving the dates, before the first exam, on which I expect to introduce topics in class. Some modification of this schedule is possible, although the order of presentation will be respected. There is no fixed due date for this work, but assigned problems should be submitted within a week of the introduction of the topic in class. Although you should aim to give correct solutions of the exercises, there are some common mistakes that are difficult to avoid. You can make an important contribution to the class by reminding me of these mistakes. If the whole class is working on the same topic, discussions of flawed approaches to the exercises can be very useful. Only “Middle-level” problems will be listed here. Some of the easier problems will be discussed in lecture, and the harder problems used as a basis for workshops. Notes on some of these exercises may be added to the course Web page.

	Date	section	page	problems
September 01	1.1		3	2.
	1.2		6	13, 14.
	1.3		13	14, 15, 17, 18, 21.
September 08	1.4		18	12, 15, 18.
	1.5		28	NONE.
	1.6		31	12, 15.
September 13	1.7		37	16.
	2.1		46	22, 24, 25.
	2.2		50	NONE.
September 15	2.3		54	17, 19, 20.
	2.4		63	30, 34, 35.
September 20	2.5		73	26, 33, 34.
September 22	2.6		82	7, 12, 13.
September 27	2.7		87	4, 5.
September 29	2.8		91	2, 4.
October 04	2.9		96	3.
October 06	2.10		101	1.
October 11	2.11		106	NONE.