Objective: To appreciate the beauty and power of binary operations.

Prerequisites: Math 52, 124 or permission of instructor. Some experience with proofs.


Outline of course: The main goal of the course is to introduce you to groups and some of their fundamental properties. This is covered in Chapters 1–5 of your text. We will also cover rings in Chapters 7.

The material in Sections 0.1 and 0.2 is background. I expect that you have at least seen most of the material in this chapter. However, I will try to review the most important parts as we need them.

Office hours: You are welcome to stop by my office at any time. During scheduled office hours I can always be found in my office, Mansfield 107; no appointment is necessary. I also check my email frequently and am happy to try to answer questions and/or give hints on homework that way. We can also schedule meetings at times convenient to you.

Time expectations: You should expect to spend approximately 8 hours per week preparing for this class.

Written homework:

1. You are welcome to work in groups on any of the homework assignments. However, you must hand in your own written work; in particular you must understand what you have written down and cannot just copy from someone else. If your collaborators are not members of the class, you must list them at the top of your assignment. Please reference any additional sources you use in completing the assignments. The use of homework solutions written by others is not allowed. Doing so is a violation of the UVM Code of Academic Integrity.

2. Assignments should 1) be stapled 2) have your name on them and 3) be legible. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in points being deducted at my discretion.

3. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day specified. Late assignments are accepted for good reasons (e.g. — family emergencies, serious illness) without penalty. Otherwise they are accepted at my discretion and with points deducted. If you know you will be absent, please talk to me beforehand or make arrangements to hand in the work.

4. No homeworks will be dropped. If you miss an assignment for a “good reason” you are responsible for handing it in as soon as circumstances permit.

Grading: After each exam, I will tell you what your final grade would be if I had to base it solely on the homework and exams completed up until that point. Exam and homework grades will be curved, if necessary. At least an A- is earned for an average of 90, at least
a B- for an average of 80, etc. If you have a conflict with an exam you must talk to me at least a week ahead of time. Dates and coverage for Exams 1 & 2 are tentative.

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<th>What</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Homework</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Chapters 0 &amp; 1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Wed, Feb 12 (tentative)</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Chapters 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Wed, Mar 26 (tentative)</td>
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<td>Final</td>
<td>Cumulative</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Fri, May 5, 10:30am–1:15pm</td>
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Student Learning Accommodations: If you have already developed a plan through UVM’s ACCESS office or feel you need accommodations in order to succeed in this course, please talk to me at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Integrity: I expect you to follow the UVM Code of Academic Integrity: http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf and Code of Rights and Responsibilities: http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/studentcode.pdf. If you are unsure at any time as to what is permissible, you are responsible for asking me for guidance. Any suspected violations will be treated seriously and immediately forwarded to the Center for Student Ethics & Standards for further investigation.

Religious Holidays: Please let me know in writing by the second week of classes any days during which you will be missing class owing to a religious holiday. There will be no penalty for such absences and I will make accommodations for you to make up any missed work.

Remember: Math is fun!