

# Math 331 Syllabus, Spring 2012

Mark Steinberger

Office	ES 136C
Hours	MW 12:35–1:05 and 3:40–4:10 F 12:35–1:30 and by arrangement
Email	mark@albany.edu Please include Math 331 in the subject line.
Text	<i>A course in low-dimensional geometry</i> Mark Steinberger <a href="http://albany.edu/~mark/geom.pdf">http://albany.edu/~mark/geom.pdf</a> and online resources on the course home page
Final Exam	Monday, May 14, 3:30pm–5:30pm
My home page	<a href="http://math.albany.edu/~mark">http://math.albany.edu/~mark</a>
Course home page	<a href="http://math.albany.edu/~mark/classes/331/">http://math.albany.edu/~mark/classes/331/</a>

There will be three in-class exams and a final exam. The dates of the in-class exams will be announced in class one week prior to each exam. Exam 3 is Monday, April 30.

There will also be quizzes in class most class periods. They will generally be done as group work.

The grade for the course is calculated according to the following point system: Each in-class exam will be worth 100 points. The final exam is worth 150 points. The quizzes will count 50 points in total. Thus, there are 500 total points for the course. Credit will be given for improvement on the final.

Class attendance is essential. Significant material will be presented that is not in the book. If for some reason you need to miss class, it is imperative that you get notes from someone. And finding someone who takes good notes isn't always easy. Also, it is usually easier to digest the material if you see and hear it presented.

The quizzes should encourage your class attendance, as you will receive an automatic zero for any quiz you miss. There will be no make-up quizzes. However, since absences are sometimes unavoidable, I will drop your three lowest quiz scores in computing the quiz component of your grade.

The quizzes will be primarily based on the material introduced in the preceding class, so be sure to study your notes prior to the next class.

You are strongly encouraged to discuss this material with each other and with me, both in office hours and in class. Verbalizing mathematical questions is a very useful step toward understanding them. Classroom discussion is strongly encouraged. Please ask questions! If there is something you don't understand or can't follow, there will be a number of other people in the class in the same boat. So a number of people will benefit if you ask.

My goal here is to teach you, not to penalize you. The test for all of us is how you do on the exams. So please make use of the class and office hours to get my help. I am happy to give it.

It is very important to stay current with the material. If you fall behind, it will be hard to catch up. If you are having trouble, please do come to office hours early on. If you leave it until the last minute, you probably won't be able to learn it in time.

The ultimate test is being able to solve problems. Keep your curiosity alive and follow it where it leads.

The writing assignment for the writing intensive section is online at

<http://albany.edu/~mark/classes/331/writing12s.pdf>.

It is due Wednesday, April 11.