Math 331 Syllabus, Spring 2016

Mark Steinberger

MAT 331 Transformational Geometry
Class number 2139
Class location ES140
Class time MWF 11:30–12:25
Prerequisite MAT 220
Instructor Mark Steinberger
Title Herr Doktor Professor :-)  
(Associate Professor of Math. and Stat.)
Office ES 136C
Hours MW 12:35–2:35 and by arrangement
Email mark@albany.edu
Please include Math 331 in the subject line.

Text A course in low-dimensional geometry
Mark Steinberger
http://albany.edu/~mark/geom.pdf
and online resources on the course home page

Exam 3 Wednesday, April 27, in class
Final Exam Monday, May 9, 3:30pm–5:30pm
My home page http://albany.edu/~mark
Course home page http://albany.edu/~mark/classes/331/

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 Wednesday, April 27.

We will also do graded group work most class sessions. This will help you get ready for the tests.

The grade for the course is calculated according to the following point system:

- In-class quizzes 9%
- Each in-class exam 18%
- Final exam 37%

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.
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. And please do take advantage of the old exams posted on the course web. They will give you lots of problems to study. The Exam 1 questions have posted solutions. The others do not, simply because the graphics package I use to draw the diagrams isn’t sophisticated enough to add the necessary overlays. I’m very happy to go over old problems in office hours.