Math 525 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 525 in the subject line.
My page   http://math.albany.edu/~mark
Course page http://math.albany.edu/~mark/classes/425-525/

Due to the escalation in textbook prices, there will not be an assigned
text for this course. I will be using materials from several sources, including:


I will also place shorter documents on the course web.

There will be three take-home exams shared with the Math 425 class. There will also be an extra project for each 525 student. You can meet with me and work out a project to your liking, or I can assign one.

We will also have in-class quizzes most class periods, mostly done as group work.

Each take-home exam counts for 23% of your grade, as does the extra project. The quizzes count for 8%.

Class attendance is essential, especially since there is no 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.