Math 425 Syllabus, Spring 2014

Mark Steinberger

Office   ES 136C
Hours    MW 2:45–4:05 and by arrangement
Email    mark@albany.edu Please include Math 425 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:

[1] Childs, Lindsay N. A concrete introduction to higher algebra.

[2] Niven, Ivan; Zuckerman, Herbert; Montgomery, Hugh. The
theory of numbers (Fifth edition). John Wiley & Sons, New York,


http://albany.edu/~mark/algebra.pdf

I will also place shorter documents on the course web.

There will be three take-home exams. Each counts for \( \frac{1}{3} \) of your grade.
Old exams are posted on the course home page. They will give you an idea
of what I have expected of students in the past.

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.

You are strongly encouraged to discuss this material with each other and
with me, both in office hours and in class. Verbalizing mathematical ques-
tions 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.