Math 525 Syllabus, Spring 2015

Mark Steinberger

Office  ES 136C
Hours  MW 2:45-4:05 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:

[1] Childs, Lindsay N. A concrete introduction to higher algebra.
    Third edition. Undergraduate Texts in Mathematics. Springer,
[2] Niven, Ivan; Zuckerman, Herbert; Montgomery, Hugh. The
    theory of numbers (Fifth edition). John Wiley & Sons, New York,

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.
Each take-home exam counts for 28% of your grade. The project is 10%.
We will also have in-class group work accounting for 6%.

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.