Syllabus for Math 431, *Abstract Algebra*, Spring 2011

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Office Hours: MWF 12:30-1:30 and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a one semester course that is a continuation of 430. We will cover rings and fields and special topics possibly including computer algebra or others.

TEXT: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra*, J. Gallian, Seventh edition (required).

GRADING: The grading will be assigned on the following scale: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F below 60.
There will be no curves and no extra credit. I will assign +/- on an individual basis. WF's will not be assigned. Points are assigned as follows: Quizzes (10) - 100 points, Midterm exams (3) - 100 points each, Homework - up to 100 points, Final exam - 100 points

QUIZZES: There will be a 10 point quiz at the beginning of class each Thursday. This quiz will cover material through the previous class. Quiz questions will be similar (but certainly not limited) to homework questions. The 10 best quiz scores will be kept, and the rest will be dropped. There will be no make up quizzes given.

LATEX: As part of our objective to "write" mathematics (as well as to learn it and to speak it) we will learn to use the mathematical typsetting program LATEX. LATEXis the standard typsetting tool of mathematicians all over the world. Whether you will be teaching, working in business or in academia, LATEXwill be useful for preparing mathematical documents. See my website for information on installing and running LATEX.

HOMEWORK: Homework will be assigned after each section. We will discuss the homework, but most of it will not be collected. It will be checked for completeness. Occasionally I will assign one problem to be typed in LATEXand handed in for grading. Each assignment will be worth 10 points. You are encouraged to work together in groups on the homework problems.

MIDTERMS and FINAL: There will be three midterms during the semester and a final exam worth worth 100 points each. If you cannot make it to a scheduled exam, you MUST contact the instructor BEFORE the exam if at all possible, or if an emergency, WITHIN 24 HOURS after the exam if you need to schedule a make up exam. Make up exams will only be given for extreme excuses. A doctor's note or some other physical excuse is required.

HONOR CODE You are to abide by the JMU honor code at all times. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Cheating will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. When turning in homework or groupwork, you may work together and discuss the problems, but you must write up the homework to turn in **by yourself**. Every answer requires an explanation, and no two people's explanations will be exactly the same. Copying someone else's homework and putting your name on it is a violation of the Honor Code. Do not share your LATEXcode with anyone. You are welcome to look at each other's code, but do not share files, and do not copy code from someone else word for word.