Purdue University   Instructor: Uli Walther
MA453 Intro to Algebra   Office: 746 MATH
Fall 2013   Phone: 49-41959
Syllabus   E-mail: `walther@math.purdue.edu`

1   General Information

1.1   Class time / location:

TTh 10:30-11:45, EE005.

1.2   Office Hours:

Tue 1:30-2:30, Th 12:30-1:00.

1.3   Textbook:

Contemporary Abstract Algebra
Joseph Gallian
8th edition

1.4   Webpage:

Under `http://www.math.purdue.edu/~walther/teach` you find this syllabus
as well as some other info concerning the course, including a link to our *Project
Rhea* (see below).

1.5   Statement for Students with Disabilities

See the webpage, `http://www.math.purdue.edu/~walther/teach`.

1.6   Calculators

You may use **NO** calculators on the tests. Furthermore, in all cases, **numerical
answers alone will get you no credit**. This class emphasizes understanding
the process that leads to a solution, not the solution itself. Credit will be given
for the explanation of the method (if correct) and how it is carried out.

2 Course Structure

If you disagree with the grading in any category, you need to resubmit the item in question **with a written explanation** stating *why* (and not just *that*) you deserve more credit.

2.1 Homework:

Homework will be collected every Thursday in class, or in my office no later than 2:30pm. **No late assignments will be accepted.** Neither will homework deposited anywhere else.

The homework due in any given week is the homework corresponding to the material of the previous week. Homework must be readable and **must be stapled**. Illegible scribblings will receive no credit from the grader.

You are encouraged to attempt all the questions and discuss with your classmates. However, the write-up must be of your own.

- WORK MUST BE SHOWN TO EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWERS.
  NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR JUST THE NUMERICAL ANSWERS. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO EXAMS.

2.2 Project Rhea

In this course, 5% of the grade arises from writing projects on *Rhea*. This will be done in groups of 4. Due date is **Dec 1, Sunday before dead week**. There are suggested topics posted, but I am open to your suggestions.

2.3 Midterms:

There will be one midterm, **Wednesday October 3**. Makeup tests may be given in extraordinary instances, but only with documented reasons.

2.4 Final Exam:

The Final Exam will be given during the Final Exam Week.

The location and date of the final will be announced in class.

2.5 Course Grade:

Your course grade will be determined using the following distributions:

Rhea	5%
HW	30%
Midterm	30%
Final	35%