# Math 371 (Abstract Algebra II)
## Fall 2015
## TR 1:30-3:00pm, DRL 3C2
## University of Pennsylvania

---

**Instructor:** William Simmons, DRL 4C3, `wsimmo@sas.upenn.edu`.

**Office Hours (held in DRL 4C3):** Tuesdays 10:30-noon;  Wednesdays 1-2:30 p.m.; others, time permitting, by appointment.

**Teaching assistant:** Xiaofei Jin, DRL 3C15, `jinx@math.upenn.edu`; (held in DRL 3C15): Mondays 3-4 p.m.;  Fridays 3-4 p.m.

**Class website and Canvas:** The page www.math.upenn.edu/~wsimmo/Math 371, Abstract Algebra II.html will serve as our main class website. Look there for homework assignments and other course documents.

We will use the Canvas system (https://canvas.upenn.edu) only for announcements and for posting scores. Be sure to choose the option of accepting emails from Canvas about announcements. To contact me, please use my email rather than the Canvas messaging system.

**Textbook:** Joseph Rotman, *Galois Theory*, 2nd ed.

**Exam and other important dates:**

- Add deadline: Monday, Sept. 14

- First midterm: Thursday, Sept. 24, in class

- Drop deadline: Friday, Oct. 9

- Second midterm: Thursday, Oct. 29, in class

- Withdrawal deadline: Friday, Nov. 6

- Last day of classes: Tuesday, Dec. 8

- Final exam (take-home): Due by 4pm on Monday, Dec. 14

**Homework:** Weekly homework is generally due at the beginning of class on Thursdays; any changes will be announced through Canvas. *Late work will not generally be accepted, so please talk to me ahead of time if you face a legitimate extenuating circumstance.*

**Exams:** The midterms are held in class on the dates indicated above. You may not use notes or electronic devices on any of the exams.

**Final exam:** The final exam will be given out on the last day of class and is due in my office by 4pm on Monday, Dec. 14 (our scheduled time was from noon-2pm on that day). You may work on it for up to 6 hours and use your own notes and text but no other resources or people.

**Grades:** Your grade will be determined by the following breakdown:

- 25% homework, 40% midterms, 30% final, 5% regular attendance in class and recitation (see below)

Actual letter grades are calculated as follows:

- A: Earned 80% or more of available points

- A-: Earned between 70 and 79% of available points

- B+: Earned between 65 and 69% of available points

- B: Earned between 60 and 64% of available points

- B-: Earned between 55 and 59% of available points

- C+: Earned between 50 and 54% of available points

- C: Earned between 45 and 49% of available points

- C-: Earned between 40 and 44% of available points

- D: Earned between 35 and 39% of available points

- F: Below 35% of available points

Regarding attendance, if you consistently skip class meetings or recitation sessions without justification, you will miss out on the last 5 percentage points (I would contact you beforehand via a course problem notice; if you're participating regularly, there should be no problem.)

Errors in recording and/or grading must be brought up within a week of the assignment being returned. Grades are fully determined by the numbers, so please don't request exceptions.

**Academic Honesty:**

- You must write up your own work so that it represents your own understanding. Except on the final exam, you are welcome to study together, talk about problems with others, look at math resources online, etc., but you need to write your final solution on your own (i.e., no copying, whether it be another student's solution or something online). You should also not allow your own work to be copied.

- Infractions will result in loss of credit for the exam or assignment and, depending on the situation, university discipline. For more details, see www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity.

**You and Your Work**

- (Homework) Write neatly and show all relevant work needed to understand your thought process. Incomprehensible and/or messy may not receive credit. Be sure to use complete sentences and correct grammar in your work.

- (Background knowledge) You should be familiar with the basics of groups and vector spaces, as well as the definitions of rings and fields. We will review the necessary results and definitions as we go, but it will be easier early on if you have had some prior exposure to these topics. You should also have some experience with reading and writing basic proofs, though you will have plenty of practice throughout the semester. Most of all, you need to be curious about mathematics and be willing to think through the material we discuss.

- (Getting help) Study the assigned material before class. Find out what you don't understand, and bring questions! Beyond that, be sure to take full advantage of office hours (both mine and the TA's) as well as recitation sessions. Talk to me early when challenges arise so that we can figure out how you will achieve success with the material.

- (Accommodations) Please talk to me as soon as possible about accommodations through Student Disabilities Services (Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300, http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/sds/), scheduling conflicts with religious holidays, athletic events, etc., or working around health issues and other situations.