

# MATH 502.01: Intro. to Algebraic Structures II, Spring 2023

Class website: <https://sakai.duke.edu/portal/site/math.502.01.s23>

TTh 3:30 - 4:45 pm ET in Physics 227

**Instructor:** Dr. Margaret (Maggie) Regan ([mregan@math.duke.edu](mailto:mregan@math.duke.edu), [www.margaretregan.com](http://www.margaretregan.com))

**Contact Method:** Please contact me by email with questions, comments, concerns, or requests for meetings or help. I will respond within 24 hours.

**Office Hours:** TBD during the first week of class (look for an announcement on Sakai)

Recurring Zoom link: <https://duke.zoom.us/j/8643735589>

## Recommended

**Books:**

- 1) *A First Course in Abstract Algebra*, Fraleigh, 7th edition, 2002, ISBN-10 0201763907.
- 2) *Representations and Characters of Groups*, James & Liebeck, 2nd edition, 2001, ISBN-13 978-0521812054.
- 3) Snippets of other texts might show up throughout the semester — I will specify as this happens.

**Description:** Fields and field extensions, modules over rings, further topics in groups, rings, fields, and their applications.. *Prerequisite:* Mathematics 501, or 401 and consent of instructor.

**Climate Goals:** *Axiom 1.* Mathematical potential is distributed equally among different groups, irrespective of geographic, demographic, and economic boundaries.

*Axiom 2.* Everyone can have joyful, meaningful, and empowering mathematical experiences.

*Axiom 3.* Mathematics is a powerful, malleable tool that can be shaped and used differently by various communities to serve their needs.

*Axiom 4.* Every student deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to *actively* attend every class session in person. In the online learning environment, “attendance” is measured by your *presence* on the site and your *contributions* to the site. If a student is in quarantine or has a major time zone misalignment, contact me and we will discuss attendance and class participation accommodations. Excessive unexplained absence may be reported to the dean’s office of the college.

**Electronics:** Please respect your fellow students and prevent your electronics from disrupting class. If entering via a Zoom meeting, make sure to mute your audio. I encourage you to attend any Zoom meetings with your camera on as it helps us all communicate better.

**Topics:** As time permits, we will cover the following topics:

- group actions on a set
- extension fields
- vector spaces
- algebraic extensions
- geometric constructions
- finite fields
- Sylow theorems & applications
- free (Abelian) groups
- factorization
- automorphisms and Galois theory
- group representations
- FG-modules
- group algebras

**Objectives:** As time permits, the students will achieve the following objectives:

1. to increase your ability to learn complex mathematical ideas on your own
2. to improve your oral and written presentation skills
3. to have a positive mathematical experience
4. to be well-prepared for graduate school coursework and research in algebra.

**Collaboration and Honor Code:** Students are permitted and encouraged to work together when doing homework, but copying work is not allowed. Include the names of any collaborators at the top of your homework submission. Examinations and homework are conducted under the [Duke Community Standard](#). If a student is found responsible through the Office of Student Conduct for academic dishonesty on a graded item in this course, the student will receive a score of zero for that assignment, and instructor reserves the right to further reduce that student's final grade for the course by up to two letter grades, at the discretion of the instructor. If a student's admitted academic dishonesty is resolved directly through a faculty student resolution agreement approved by the Office of Student Conduct, the terms of that agreement will dictate the grading response to the assignment at issue.

**Absences and Makeup Work:** Students are expected to arrive on time, stay the entire class, and contribute to the class discussion and group work. Excused absences and makeup exams will be handled according to [University policy](#). Please notify the instructor in writing (email message is acceptable) prior to the date of absence when this is feasible. In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g., accident or emergency), the student should notify me as soon as possible.

**Grading:** The grading scheme will be the following:

Pre-assigned Presentations	20%
Homework	20%
Midterms 1 & 2	2 @ 20% each
Final Poster + Presentation	20%

Each component of the above grade is calculated based on percentages. The final grades will follow the breakdown below:

<b>A+ ≥ 97%</b>	<b>B+ ≥ 87%</b>	<b>C+ ≥ 77%</b>	<b>D+ ≥ 67%</b>	<b>F &lt; 60%</b>
<b>A ≥ 93%</b>	<b>B ≥ 83%</b>	<b>C ≥ 73%</b>	<b>D ≥ 63%</b>	
<b>A- ≥ 90%</b>	<b>B- ≥ 80%</b>	<b>C- ≥ 70%</b>	<b>D- ≥ 60%</b>	

Homework will be submitted using Gradescope and is due every Thursday starting Jan. 19th by 11:59 pm ET. There is a late homework deadline of Saturday with no penalty. After the Saturday at 11:59 pm ET there is a 10% penalty on the grade. Any homework prior to Spring Break must be turned in no later than March 23rd to be incorporated into the final course grade (with or without the penalty). Homework will be graded via the following scale:

*3 points = fully correct, all work present*  
*2 points = mostly correct, possibly missing work*  
*1 point = mostly incorrect, missing most work*

*0 points = no solution*

Class participation and office hour attendance can be used to boost homework grade.

### Exam Dates

Midterm 1: Thursday, February 16 (during scheduled class time) in Physics 227

Midterm 2: Thursday, April 6 (during scheduled class time) in Physics 227

Final Poster + Presentation: Wednesday, May 3 @ 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET in TBD  
(*see separate handout for how exams will be proctored if via Zoom*)

- Appeal:** All appeals related to homework and exam grades must be submitted within 1 week after they are graded. To appeal, the student must submit to me the following: homework question or exam, written or typed note explaining which question(s) is/are being appealed, and the basis for the appeal (e.g., the question was mistakenly marked incorrectly, etc.). I will review each appeal and make appropriate changes.
- Disabilities:** Reasonable accommodations will be made for students who are registered with the [Student Disability Access Office](#). Such students should speak with me as soon as possible.
- Inclusivity:** Duke University's Office for Institutional Equity provides resources, events, and information about current initiatives at Duke to support equality for all members of the Duke community. I hope that you will communicate with me if you experience anything in this course that does not support an inclusive environment, and you can also report any incidents you may witness or experience on campus to the [Office for Institutional Equity](#).
- Mental Health and Wellness:** If your mental health concerns and/or stressful events negatively affect your daily emotional state, academic performance, or ability to participate in your daily activities, many resources are available to you, including ones listed below. Duke encourages all students to access these resources, particularly as we navigate the transition and emotions associated with this time. Duke Student Government has worked with DukeReach and student advocates to create the "[Two-Click Support](#)" Form, and DukeReach has expanded its drop in hours as well. Other resources available are the following:

- **DukeReach.** Provides comprehensive outreach services to identify and support students in managing all aspects of wellbeing. Learn more [here](#).
- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).** CAPS services include individual group, and couples counseling services, health coaching, psychiatric services, and workshops and discussions. (919) 660-1000
- **Blue Devils Care.** A convenient and cost-effective way for Duke students to receive 24/7 mental health support through TalkNow. Learn more [here](#).

In addition, managing daily stress and self-care are also important to well-being. Duke offers several resources for students to both seek assistance on coursework and improve overall wellness, some of which are listed below. Learn more [here](#).

- **The Academic Resource Center (ARC).** (919) 684-5917, [theARC@duke.edu](mailto:theARC@duke.edu)
- **DuWell.** (919) 681-8421, [duwell@studentaffairs.duke.edu](mailto:duwell@studentaffairs.duke.edu)
- [WellTrack](#).