COURSE SYLLABUS MTH 586: SEMINAR IN ALGEBRA FOR TEACHERS SPRING 2008

Instructor: Dr. Mark Klespis Office: LDB 421E

Phone: 936-294-1577 Hours: Tues: 4:00-5:00 pm

email: klespis@shsu.edu & by appointment

Course Description

This course consists of a survey of algebraic structures including groups, rings, integral domains, and fields. Certification in secondary mathematics is required as a prerequisite for this course.

Course Objectives

- Learn the fundamental concepts, principles, and skills of abstract algebra
- Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas and proofs in abstract algebra
- Develop a broader understanding and appreciation of abstract algebra

Course Outline

Mappings and Operations
Introduction to Groups
Equivalence, Congruence, Divisibility
Groups
Introduction to Rings
The Familiar Number Systems

Required Textbook: Modern Algebra: An Introduction

(5th Edition) by John R. Durbin. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 2005

ISBN: 0-471-43335-7

Attendance Policy

Attendance is extremely important. Regular and punctual attendance is expected. Course grades may be lowered up to one-half letter grade for each one hour absence in excess of three hours. Students should discuss each absence with the instructor.

Assignments

Major Exams (2)	60%
Course Project	20%
Homework	20%

Exams

There will be two major examinations in this course. Part of each exam will be in a take-home format (40%) and the remainder will be in-class (60%). Each exam will be worth a total of 100 points. You should notify the instructor in advance if you must miss a class during which time a major examination is scheduled. The instructor, at his discretion, may allow you to take the exam early.

Course Project

You will be expected to complete a 5-10 page paper on a topic related to abstract algebra. The topic must be approved by the instructor. The projected will be evaluated on the following criteria: (1) use of appropriate mathematical language, (2) use of appropriate mathematical notation, and (3) address all topics specified in the assignment.

Grading Plan

The course grade will be determined by 30% of each of the two (2) major exam scores, 20% of the course project score and 20% of the homework score. The letter grade will be determined as follows:

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to

disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problem stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling 936-294-1720.

Religious Holidays

A student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Students will be excused to travel for observance of a religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing the holy day(s) and the travel involved. Upon receiving the statement the instructor will provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams or assignments.

Instructor Evaluations

You may be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Syllabus Revision

The instructor reserves the right to revise any part of this syllabus as deemed necessary throughout the semester. Revision, if necessary, will be announced during class.