

TOPOLOGY SYLLABUS, FALL 2016

Course Webpage. www.yashabk.com/teaching/2016fall/topology.

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Exams.

- There will be two in-class midterms, *tentatively* scheduled for October 5 and November 9.
- The final will be on December 21, 1pm to 3pm.
- Exam attendance is mandatory unless excused by the associate director of undergraduate studies.
- No calculators or other resources will be allowed during the exams.
- If there are issues with the grading of the exams, please contact me.

Homework. There will be weekly homework.

- Late homework will not be accepted unless excused by the associate director of undergraduate studies.
- If there are issues with the grading of the written homework, please contact the grader. Please contact me if you and the grader are unable to resolve the dispute.

Collaboration. To succeed on the homework, you should work together with your peers. However, there is a limit to how much collaboration is acceptable. Here are some general guidelines:

- While you should discuss the problems with others, you should write up your solutions on your own.
- If you get a good grade on a homework problem, you should also be able to do well on a pop quiz with that problem on it.
- You should not look at another student's written solution to a problem, but you are welcome to ask them about the techniques they used to solve it.
- It's possible to get around the letter of this policy while violating its spirit, for example, by reading your written solution aloud to other students instead of showing it to them. Needless to say, that's also unacceptable.
- Feel free to email me if there are gray areas in this policy that need clarification.

Lecture.

- Attendance is not mandatory. I'll leave it to you to make good (or bad) decisions about the best use of your time.
- If you attend lecture, I expect you to pay attention.
- Phones and computers are iffy because, although they have valid uses in lecture, they also have a tendency to distract both you and the people around you. If you expect that you'll end up getting distracted by activities unrelated to lecture, then don't use your electronics, or sit closer to the back where they're less likely to distract others.

Office Hours.

- Apart from exams, office hours are your only opportunity to get personalized feedback from me on your techniques.
- It's a good idea to go to office hours occasionally regardless of how you're doing in the course.
- My office hours are listed on the calendar on the course webpage.

Course Staff.

- The grader is Yingxuan Li, yli@math.wustl.edu.
- The associate director of undergraduate studies is Blake Thornton, bthornton@wustl.edu.

Textbook. It's a good idea to read the textbook, particularly the introductions of the chapters and sections. If you're having trouble following the lectures, the only way that's going to get better is by reading the textbook before lecture.

Grading.

- I will combine grades with the following weights:
 - 40% written homework,
 - 30% midterms, 15% each, and
 - 30% final.
- Per department recommendation, I will assign grades by taking the unrounded combined grade G and using the following scale:
 - A: $90 \leq G$.
 - A-: $85 \leq G < 90$.
 - B+: $80 \leq G < 85$.
 - B: $75 \leq G < 80$.
 - B-: $70 \leq G < 75$.
 - C+: $65 \leq G < 70$.
 - C: $60 \leq G < 65$.
 - C-: $55 \leq G < 60$.
 - D: $50 \leq G < 55$.
 - F: $G < 50$.
- Per department recommendation, if the mean score on a midterm or final is below 75%, then I will add the difference to each student's score so that the mean is 75%.
- Your grades will be available on Blackboard at bb.wustl.edu.