February 4, 2008

18.702 SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Group Representations, Rings and Fields

Prerequisite: 18.701

Formal Course Requirements: Weekly problem sets will be graded. There will be three quizzes during the regular class hour, and no final exam. To receive a passing grade for the course, you must submit solutions to at least 75% of the problems on the weekly assignments. Assuming that this is done, weighting in the final grade will be roughly 25% for the homework and 25% for each quiz.

All quizzes will be given in Walker 50-340 during the usual class hour, 10-11. Please make a note of the quiz dates:

Quiz Dates: Mon. Mar. 5, Wed. Apr. 11, Fri. May 11.

Preparation: The course outline contains reading assignments and exercises on the topic of each lecture. I rely on you to do the reading. Do it ahead of time if possible.

Work the exercises in the course outline, but do not turn them in. See me if you have serious difficulties with these exercises.

Homework: The problem sets are the most essential part of the course. As you should know from 18.701, they require serious thought. Don't wait until the night before they are due to start working on them. You are encouraged to work in groups on these problem sets. However, each of you must write up your solutions alone.

In past years a few students have had trouble finishing their assignments on time, and fall further behind each week. To avoid the stress that this causes, and for the sake of the graders, I've instituted a firm rule: Written assignments must be handed in on the day they are due. It is better to hand in an incomplete assignment than to put it off, hoping to finish the work in the future.

After the assignment has been graded, some of your solutions will be copied and posted in a glass case by room 2-163. I don't hand out official solutions because it is hard to find interesting problems, and I want to be able to use the ones I have collected again.

We can schedule occasional informal sessions to go over homework as needed. Speak to me when you feel that it is time to have one.

Text: Artin, *Algebra*, Prentice Hall

Instructor: Mike Artin, 2-239, Extension 3-3689. Office Hours are tentatively scheduled for M 1-2 and W 2-3. If you can't make these hours, see me after class to set up an appointment.

Web address: www-math.mit.edu/18.702/