

Math 122: Algebra I, Fall 2023

Time and location of class and office hours; textbook; grading and class policies

Class meeting room and times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00–4:15 PM in Science Center room 309a **Lecture Hall E (basement level)**, starting Tuesday the 5th of September, *except Thursday the 7th of September*. To make up for this, we'll meet on Thursday the 7th of December at the start of Reading Period. As required by University policy, I expect to hold class on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving break (November 21); but in recognition of the realities of travel scheduling etc., I intend to use that lecture to cover some supplementary topic(s) that will not be directly tested on the final examination.

Textbook: We will largely follow Dummit and Foote, *Abstract Algebra*, 3rd edition (Wiley 2004); available online from the Harvard library (QA 162 .D85 2004).

Office Hours will be held Tuesdays 8–10 PM in the Lowell House Dining Hall, starting September 12. For questions that cannot wait until next Tuesday, you can e-mail me at `elkies@math.harvard.edu`.

Problem sets: Weekly problem sets will be due Wednesday at midnight. The problem set scores will count for 60% of your course grade; see the “Grading” section below.

You're welcome to — indeed encouraged to — work on problem sets with your fellow Math 122 students.¹ Whether you collaborate or not, you must write up and turn in your own solutions; if you did work on the homework in a group, you must list your collaborators' names (as well as any other resources you used beyond the textbook and class materials). Please either typeset your solutions (L^AT_EX is best for this) or handwrite them *neatly* (for your CAs' sake, as well as for yours when you review for exams or future use!) and scan them.

You must **not** use “generative artificial intelligence (AI)” tools such as ChatGPT in the process of solving homework problems and writing up your solutions. Per the Office for Undergraduate Education's “AI guidance” page:² when the class policy forbids the use of such tools for homework, “Violations of this policy will be considered academic misconduct. We draw your attention to the fact that different classes at Harvard could implement different AI policies, and it is the student's responsibility to conform to expectations for each course.”

Grading Your course grade will be based on homework (60%), the in-class midterm (15%), and final exam (25%).

For the homework, your bottom score will not count; in particular this means you can take one “drop” with no penalty (except that each of your other problem sets *will* count). You can also hand in at most two problem sets two days late without penalty. You cannot get any credit for a problem set that is more than a week late, because that is when the solution sets will be made public; this is also for the sake of your CA's so that they are not inundated with a flood of late problem sets towards the end of the semester.

¹cf. Rabbi Chanina's dictum [Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 7a]: “Much have I have from my teachers, more from my colleagues, and from my students most of all.”

²<https://oue.fas.harvard.edu/ai-guidance>