Math 248 – Methods of Proof in Mathematics
Fall 2017
Course Syllabus

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Course Web Page: www.calpoly.edu/~akaul/teaching/Math248

Textbook
No textbook is required for this course.

Course Description
This course is an introduction to abstract mathematics, with an emphasis on the techniques of mathematical proof. Topics to be covered include logic, set theory, relations, functions and cardinality.

For a complete list of course learning objectives, refer to the MATH 248 Expanded Course Outline at https://content-calpoly-edu.s3.amazonaws.com/math/1/documents/248.pdf

Homework
Homework contributes 40% to your final course grade. Homework sets will be assigned at regular intervals throughout the quarter. Each assignment is worth 20 points. The points will be allocated as follows:

- (15 points) I will choose a subset of the problems. These exercises will be graded carefully, with an emphasis on the format and logical flow of your proofs. Since I will not announce my selections until after the assignments are turned in, students should treat each problem as though it will be graded.

- (5 points) The remaining 5 points will be based on the level of completion and overall appearance of your write-ups.

I will announce the assignments (and due dates) in class. I will also post this information on the course website. Once everyone has turned in their homework I will post solutions. Late homework will be accepted but penalized at a rate of 5 points per day.

Exams
An in-class midterm examination will be held on Friday, October 20. The midterm exam contributes 25% to your overall course grade. We will adhere to the Cal Poly final exam schedule: The final exam for this course is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 7-10 am. The final exam, which is comprehensive, contributes 35% to the overall course grade.

Grading
Grades will be assigned according to the usual scale (90% ↔ A’s, 80% ↔ B’s, etc.). However, I reserve the right to lower the standard if deemed necessary (i.e., there may be a curve, but it will not hurt your grade).