Instructor: Anton Kaul  
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Office Hours: Monday 12-1, Tuesday 1-2, Thursday 1-2, Friday 12-1  
Course Web Page: www.calpoly.edu/~akaul/teaching/Math481

Textbook  

Course Description  
The Math 481/482 sequence is an introduction to abstract algebra. Much of the fall quarter will be devoted to group theory, including subgroups, quotient groups, permutation groups, homomorphisms, the first isomorphism theorem and its consequences, and the fundamental theorem of finite abelian groups. Rings and fields will be introduced in the latter part of the quarter. A detailed course outline containing the learning objectives for this class is available at [http://content-calpoly-edu.s3.amazonaws.com/math/1/documents/481.pdf](http://content-calpoly-edu.s3.amazonaws.com/math/1/documents/481.pdf)

Homework  
Homework contributes 40% to your final course grade. Homework sets will be assigned at regular intervals throughout the quarter. Each assignment will be 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 28. 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 Friday, December 16, 7:10 am – 10:00 am (Section 01) or Monday, December 12, 10:10 am – 1:00 pm (Section 02). The final exam, which will be 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).