

**Math 361-01 (12:00 - 12:50 MWF 330 Forsyth)**  
**Introduction to Abstract Algebra**  
**Spring 2006**

**Instructor:** Dr. Lori Koban

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**Office Hours:**

I will be in my office at the following times: **MF 1:30 - 2:30** and **TR 12:30 - 1:30**.  
Please feel free to make an appointment for another time.

**Text:** Joseph Gallian, *Contemporary Abstract Algebra*, 5th edition, Wiley & Sons, 2002.

**Materials:** You will need a folder with pockets. You will also need a Rubik's cube.

**Course Description:** The majority of the course will be spent studying groups. We may study rings and fields as well.

**Prerequisites:** Math 250

**Grades:** Your grades will be calculated in the following way:

2 Exams	200 points (100 points each)
Cumulative Final Exam	100 points
Quizzes	120 points
Homework	480 points
Rubik's Cube Project	100 points

**Exams:** There will be two exams. Tentative exam dates are February 13 and April 12. Taking exams is not optional. Unless you have an excellent reason that is supported by documentation, there are no make-up exams. If you think that you have a reason to miss an exam, then contact me in advance and we will discuss your situation. If you miss an exam, then your score is a 0.

**Final:** You will take an oral final exam during final's week.

**Quizzes:** There will be a definition/theorem quiz every Friday that is not part of an exam week. Each quiz is worth 15 points. Your eight best quizzes will count towards your quiz grade. There are no make-up quizzes.

**Homework:** Homework is due every Friday that is not part of an exam week. Each Friday you must turn in 6 problems that pertain to the material covered the previous week of class.

Each problem is worth 10 points, so each assignment is worth 60 points. For each assignment, 3 problems must be “computations” and 3 problems must be “proofs”. Your homework must be turned in in a folder. Write one problem per page. Your solutions must be written in paragraph form with correct grammar. Each problem will be graded as follows:

- 3 points - A good beginning.
- 6 points - A partial solution.
- 10 points - A perfect solution.

Your eight best homework assignments will count towards your homework grade. Homework will be collected at the beginning of class. No late homework is accepted. (A partially completed homework assignment is better than turning in nothing.)

**Rubik’s Cube Project:** Throughout the semester we will learn how to solve the Rubik’s Cube using algebraic concepts. You will do most of the work on this project outside of class. There are four deadlines: week of February 27, week of March 20, week of April 17, and week of April 24.

**Attendance:** I expect you to attend all classes because it is impossible to make up class discussions and activities. Missing even one class is unacceptable, unless you have a very good reason. Please come to class on time. Attendance will be taken at noon sharp.

**Course Grades:** Here is how your number of accumulated points will determine your grade. I reserve the right to change the scales to benefit the students.

	B+: 870 - 899	C+: 770 - 799	D+: 670 - 699	F: less than 600
A : 930-100	B : 830 - 869	C : 730 - 769	D : 630 - 669	
A- : 900 - 929	B- : 800 - 829	C- : 700 - 729	D- : 600 - 629	