

Mathematics 383 Modern Geometry

Spring 2009

Professor: Shawn Rafalski 15 Bannow X2198 srafalski@mail.fairfield.edu
Office Hours: M 10:30-11am & 1:30-2pm, W 10-11am & 1-2pm or by appointment

Text: Baragar, *A Survey of Classical and Modern Geometries, with Computer Activities*

Homework Sets: I will assign homework roughly daily and collect it roughly every other week. **ADVICE:**

1. Do as much as you can from the previous class's homework before the next class, and
2. Right before class, spend 15 minutes or so looking through the material from the previous class.

I can't emphasize #2 enough. Just looking through your notes from the previous day will make that day's class about a thousand times easier.

NO LATE OR MESSY HOMEWORKS ACCEPTED.

You are encouraged to work together on the homework. However, here is a **WARNING:**

“There is a difference between knowing the path and walking the path.”
— Morpheus, in *The Matrix*.

Meaning: Just hearing someone explain to you how something is done will not make you able to do it—some things in life just have to be learned on our own. Math and Science is very frequently a collaborative endeavor, and so it is okay to work together on problem sets, but the *write-up must always be your own*. In particular, copying someone else's completed write-up is cheating and **NOT** an example of working together. If you worked with, talked about with, or solved homework exercises with other students, then write this at the top of each exercise in your write-up (e.g. “I worked with Stan & Kyle on this...” or “Joint work with Jack & Diane...”).

Read the above paragraph again.

Daily Scribe and Daily Inquisitor: Every day, a randomly selected student will take the class notes (everyone else should take their own notes, too!), and a randomly selected student will have to ask a question pertaining to the material (other people should ask questions, too!). The daily inquisitor can ask as many questions as he or she likes, and may also act as the intermediary for other student questions. The Daily Scribble is due in some format like Word (with supporting illustrations if necessary) within a week of that class period, but (trust me) it will be easier to type up if you do it as soon as possible after class.

Quizzes: I will only give quizzes if I feel that people aren't reading the book or thinking about the lecture material.

Exams: There will be two one-hour closed book exams during the semester. Dates to be announced.

Final Project/Presentation: Small groups will find topics in modern geometry to present to the class. Each member of the group gets 10-12 minutes to speak, so (for example) a group of 3 gets 30 or so minutes for their topic. I'll happily recommend some topics, but you are encouraged to start looking for topics on your own (I suggest first going to Wikipedia.org and typing the word "Geometry" into a search box). More details to follow. This should take the last two weeks of class, and **attendance during this time period is absolutely mandatory.**

Grades: The following is a rough approximation of the grading system: 30% Homework/Scribbling/Questioning (mostly homework), 25% each Exam, 20% Final Presentation. This is a guideline only and will not substitute for the judgement of the instructor.

Attendance: It is to your great and distinct advantage to attend class regularly. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what happened. Obtain notes and review the material that was covered before you seek help on that material.

Academic Honesty: Exams are closed book. You have been told/read about the policies at Fairfield concerning academic honesty. The bottom line is that you are adults—treat this course with the same honesty with which you would like to be treated in your life.