

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Class hours: TR 12:30–1:50 pm
Class room: MA 015
Instructor: Lars Winther Christensen
Office: MA 251
Office hours: M 5:00–6:30 pm (by announcement),
T 11:00–12:00 am, W 4:00–6:00 pm and R 8:30–9:30 am, or by appointment
Phone: (806) 742-2580 x 366
E-mail: lars.w.christensen@ttu.edu
Course homepage: www.math.ttu.edu/~lchrste/teaching5327102

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the second course in the graduate algebra sequence; it covers fundamental concepts from field theory and group theory with special attention to Galois theory.

Required text: “Abstract Algebra”, Third Edition by Dummit and Foote, John Wiley & Sons Inc.

Prerequisites: Math 5326 and basic knowledge of groups: approximately the material covered in chapters 1–3 of the text.

Expected learning outcomes: After completion of the class, students should master the fundamental concepts of field and group theory. Concepts include but are not limited to the following:

- Fields: splitting fields and algebraic closures; separable and inseparable extensions.
- Groups: standard functions and constructions, group actions, and the Sylow theorems.
- Galois theory: the fundamental theorem, simple and composite extensions, cyclotomic and abelian extensions over \mathbb{Q} , insolvability of the quintic, transcendental extensions, and inseparable extensions.

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Graded assessment is done through homework and exams. Other assessment techniques will also be used; these include direct questioning, and problems to be solved in class. Additionally, problems will be assigned for student self-assessment.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The plan is to cover parts I and IV plus some of part VI in the text. Precise reading assignments will be posted on the course homepage after every class.

Exams: In-class exams take place on 18 Feb. and 30 March. The final is a 50 hour take-home exam, due on 6 May at 4 pm.

Other important dates:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 Jan.
Spring vacation	13–21 March
Last day to drop a course	24 March
No classes	5 April

ASSIGNMENTS, GRADES, AND GRADING

Two (2) in-class exams are given during the semester. Homework will be assigned 12 times during the semester. Students are encouraged to work on the homework problems in groups.

Grading policy: On exams and written homework, partial credit for correct steps will be awarded even if the final answer is wrong. Full credit will be given only if the final answer and all intermediate steps are correct. A correct final answer *per se* does not guarantee any credit.

Deadlines and make ups: Homework is not accepted after the deadline. In-class exams cannot be made up; the final exam serves as make-up for exams that were missed for legal reasons.

Final grade: Homework (10 assignments) and exams (3) are counted towards the final grade with weights as follows: Homework 40% (4% ea.), in-class exams 40% (20% ea.), and final exam 20%.

GENERAL POLICIES

Academic integrity: It is the aim of the faculty of TTU to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. Any attempt of students to present as their own any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. Please see more information on-line at www.depts.ttu.edu/studentaffairs/CampusCrime/documents/integritymatters.pdf.

Civility in the classroom: You are expected to be courteous to me and your fellow students. This means that your cell-phone should be turned off during the class; you shall not chat with your friends during class, eat meals or snacks, or cause a distraction in any other way.

Officially approved trips: Students are allowed to miss class for trips officially sanctioned by TTU. The student must notify the instructor of upcoming trips and present written authorization.

Religious holy days: You are allowed to take the time to travel and observe a religious holy day. Prior notice should be given at least 1 day before the absence.

Students with disabilities: Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office at 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.