Math 103A: Modern Algebra I
Winter 2014
Syllabus

Instructor: Brendon Rhoades
Instructor's Email: `bprhoades@math.ucsd.edu`
Instructor's Office: 7250 APM
Instructor's Office Hours: 4:00-5:00 pm MWF or by appointment
Lecture Time: MWF 11:00-11:50 am
Lecture Room: 147 SEQUO
Textbook: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra: Eighth Edition* by Joseph A. Gallian
TA: Quang Bach
TA's Email: `qtbach@ucsd.edu`
TA's Office 5720 APM
TA's Office Hours: TBA
Discussion Time: Tu 8:00-8:50 am
Discussion Room: B412 APM
Final Exam Time: 11:30am - 2:29pm, 3/17/2014
Final Exam Room: TBA

Course Description: This is the first course in a two-quarter introduction to abstract algebra with some applications. The emphasis is on group theory. Topics include: definitions and basic properties of groups, properties of isomorphisms, and subgroups. I plan to cover Chapters 0-11 of Gallian.

Prerequisites: A grade of at least C- in Math 109 or Math 31CH or consent of the instructor. If you are unsure about whether your background is sufficient for this class, please talk with the instructor as soon as possible.

Grading: Grades will be calculated based on homework assignments given roughly once per week, two midterm exams held in class, and a final exam. The weighting scheme is as follows.
Homework: 25%
Midterm 1: 20% (in lecture, 1/31/2014)
Midterm 2: 20% (in lecture, 2/28/2014)
Final Exam: 35%

Homework Policies: Homework may be submitted in class, in the basement of APM, or by email. *Homework turned in after 5:00 pm on the day that it is due will not be accepted for any reason.* Your lowest homework score will be dropped when calculating your final grade. Collaboration on homework assignments is both permitted and encouraged, but your submitted assignments must be written in your own words. Your solutions must be written in English sentences (with subjects, verbs, punctuation, etc.) and your assignments must be clearly legible. If you are concerned about your

handwriting, it may be in your best interest to type up your assignments (it's never too early in your mathematical career to learn LaTeX!).

Midterm Policies: Electronic devices and collaboration are both strictly prohibited on midterm exams. The midterms are closed book and closed notes. Each midterm will contain an example from class and a problem from the homework. If your performance on the final exam is better than your performance on one of the midterms (including the case where a midterm is not taken), the percentage score on the final will replace the percentage score for that midterm. No make-up midterms will be given. If you want to request a regrade for a midterm (or any portion thereof), you must make this request by the end of the class period in which that midterm was handed back.

Final Exam Policies: Electronic devices and collaboration are both strictly prohibited on the final exam. The final is closed book and closed notes. The final will contain and example from class and a problem from the homework. If you need to miss the final exam because of an emergency of the direst sort (death in the family, severe illness, etc.), inform the instructor before the final. If your reason is deemed sufficiently dire, you will get an incomplete in the course and will have to take the final exam the following quarter (Spring 2014). *If you do not take the final exam on 3/17/2014 at 11:30am-2:29pm for any other reason, you will get an F in the course.*