

**MATHEMATICS 371—001**  
**FALL, 2012**

**Instructor:** Stephen S. Shatz  
**Office/Office Hours:** 4N20 DRL/Tuesday Noon—2PM  
**Teaching Assistant/Office Hours:** George Wei/DRL 3E2/Wednesday 10:30-11:30am or by appointment  
**Text/Lectures:** Algebra by Michael Artin 2Ed./ TTh at 10:30AM in DRL 4C2  
**Laboratory(Recitation):** Wed. 6:30 PM—8:30 PM in DRL 4N30

**How the course is run:** I will lecture TTh at 10:30, attendance at lectures is entirely voluntary. However, you should know that I do not follow any text (the text is to help you with alternate explanations, more examples, further problems)—so, I strongly suggest you make every effort to attend lectures. **Attendance at the weekly laboratory is absolutely mandatory;** it is the most important part of the course. Every other week, I will attend (see below on HW). George Wei will attend each week and also take attendance at the weekly laboratory.

**Exams/HW:** **There are no exams (not even a final) in this course. There will be a HW assignment every two weeks—these constitute your workload on which you will be graded.** The HW is in two parts: A and B. The A problems are easier, more routine; you are NOT to hand these in, but will discuss them every other week (the “A week”) in lab. The B problems are harder, they will be handed in and George will examine and grade them. NO hints on their solutions will be offered either by George or me before they are due. You will work in groups of your own choosing (see below under groups) on the B HW and turn in ONLY ONE PAPER PER GROUP. Your grade on this work is the same for all members of your group. We will discuss the B problems in lab every other week (the “B week”) and I will attend in the B weeks. At these sessions, you will have volunteered that afternoon on the sign-up sheet outside my office to present, **individually**, a problem (or problems). You will be judged on: the correctness of your arguments, the clarity of your presentation, the elegance of your solution. This is NOT easy and the problems won’t be either. You may sign up for as many of the problems as you think you can present but be prepared to present these volunteered problems if you are called upon. Also, be prepared for me to be a critical listener.

**Groups:** You will choose your own groups subject to the following rule and one suggestion. **Rule: A group consists of no less than two and no more than four persons.** **Suggestion:** What you want is give and take. If you are always giving or always taking, you are in the wrong group—so, you should switch groups (more about this in class). I expect you to be finished choosing groups by Wednesday, Sept. 12. You will let me know, in writing, the composition of your group.

**Your grade:** Your grade will be assigned by me based on the following components: Your participation in lab (A and B weeks, includes attendance); how you participate in the A week lab (25% of your grade); how many times you volunteer to talk in B weeks (even if you are not called upon to present your volunteered problem(s)); how well you

do in your individual B week presentations; your group's score on its written work (part of that grade is clarity, elegance, excellence and neatness (for understandability) of your written solutions—and this includes *correct use of English*); all this is 75% of your grade.

**Further remarks:** There will be NO acceptance of late HW's—**they are due the Tuesday of the B week at the end of class that day.** There will be NO make-ups of assignments allowed. NO grade of incomplete (I) will be given. The material is not easy; please make every attempt to stay current. The manner of this course is quite different from what you may be used to. Experience shows that it works and is superior to the usual method of hour exams, final exam and easy problems. Once again, the problems will be hard, I do not expect that you will solve all of them by their due date, I do expect quite a bit of work by each of your groups in trying to get solutions. I also expect self-criticism: Do not hand in nonsense because you have to hand in something, also, have some pride in your hard work—don't hand in slovenly work. Please make sure to begin thinking about and work on the assignment as soon as you get it. If you leave it to a few days before it is due, you will be in serious trouble.

I wish you good luck, I expect you to work hard. Again, please keep up with me, to fall behind will be dangerous.