

# Mathematics 3323: Modern Algebra I

Spring 2013 Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Dr. John Paul Cook

**Office:** Austin Hall Room 110a

**Office Hours:** Monday 2pm-4pm  
Tuesday 3:30pm-4:30pm  
Wednesday 10:10am-11:10am, 2pm-4pm  
Thursday 3:30pm-4:30pm  
Friday 10:10am-11:10am

If my regular office hours do not fit your schedule, please feel free to arrange another time to meet. I also have an open door policy – please feel free to drop in anytime the door is open. Success for my students is a very high priority for me, and *helping my students learn mathematics is a pleasure, not an inconvenience.*

**Email:** [jpcook@usao.edu](mailto:jpcook@usao.edu)

**Phone:** (405) 574-1279

**Course Website:** All course documents will be posted at [www.johnpaulcook.com](http://www.johnpaulcook.com).

**Textbook:** there is no required text for this course.

## **Grading:**

Midterm Exam	30% of overall grade
Final Exam	30% of overall grade
Homework Quizzes	20% of overall grade
<u>Daily Quizzes</u>	<u>20% of overall grade</u>
Total	100%

**Exams:** The exact dates for the midterm exam will be announced at least one week ahead of time in class. Each student is expected to be present for each exam. If you have to miss an exam for an unavoidable, legitimate, and documented reason, you may be granted the opportunity to schedule a makeup exam. You are much more likely to be granted a make-up exam if you let me know about your excused absence (and provide documentation) *before* the exam.

**Daily Quizzes:** Attendance will be taken in the form of daily quizzes. A typical daily quiz will consist of concepts and other material covered in the previous class period.

Each quiz will be worth 20 points. You will receive 8 points simply for being present in class to take the quiz.

*There will be no make-ups for missed daily quizzes.* At the end of the term, two quiz grades will be dropped to account for excused absences. If you have less than two absences at the end of the term, these drops will be applied to your lowest quiz grades.

**Homework Quizzes:** Homework quizzes will take place in class each time a homework assignment is due. The quiz will consist of questions from (or very similar to) the homework assignment and will be graded for correctness. Each of these quizzes will also be graded out of 20 points, and you will earn 8 out of the possible

20 by submitting a completed homework assignment along with the quiz (the homework assignment itself will be graded on a completion basis).

**Participation:** This class is taught in a small-group format with activities and discussions. The attendance and participation of each student is critical to making this style of learning a success. You are expected to actively engage in your own learning and the learning of others. Attend class, follow directions by working hard and participating in class, write class journals and comments when expected, and volunteer regularly to share your knowledge with the class.

**Grading Scale:** This class is graded on the standard 10-point scale. Let  $x$  represent the percentage of total points earned:

$$\text{A: } 90\% \leq x \leq 100\%$$

$$\text{D: } 60\% \leq x < 70\%$$

$$\text{B: } 80\% \leq x < 90\%$$

$$\text{F: } x < 60\%$$

$$\text{C: } 70\% \leq x < 80\%$$

Please feel free to see me at any point in the semester if you have questions regarding your grade.

Note: Exams and final grades will be not be curved or adjusted. Earn the grade you want!

### **Additional Course Policies:**

**The best way to learn mathematics is to regularly do mathematics yourself.** Mathematics is not a spectator sport, and it is not mastered by watching someone else work problems. As you know, math is not easy, and the best way for you to learn it, in addition to participating in class, is to work a large amount of problems on a regular basis. Generally speaking, 1 hour of undergraduate level credit corresponds to 1 hour in class and 2 hours outside class (this is why 15 hours is considered “full time” – 45 total hours). Please note that working the assigned homework problems does not guarantee a mastery of the material – the amount of practice needed for each concept will be different for each student. In most cases, the assigned homework is the *minimum*. Among other benefits, this will help you to stay current with the material being covered in class. Cramming is not an effective way to study mathematics! Studying two hours a day over seven days, for example, is far more effective than seven hours a day over two days.

**Phone and laptop policy:** As discussed above in the ‘participation’ section, portable electronic devices are not to be used during class without explicit permission from me because they are a distraction, both to me and to other students. Please turn off all devices and keep them out of sight until the end of class.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Until January 11th, there is no record of a grade for dropped courses. From January 12th through February 8th, you will receive an automatic W for a dropped course, *no matter what scores you have so far achieved*. From February 9th until April 5th, requests to drop the course will be handled as follows: if you are currently passing the course (D or higher), you will receive a W. Otherwise, you will receive an F. This is not negotiable. *Avoidance of a failing grade is not sufficient reason to obtain a W.* The class may not be dropped after April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability that you feel will prevent you from reaching your full potential in this class, please notify me as soon as possible.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty in any form is a violation of the Academic Code of Conduct and will not be tolerated. There is a zero-tolerance policy in this course for any form of plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, forgery, or any other type of academic dishonesty. For more on the Academic Code of Conduct, please see the student handbook: <http://www.usao.edu/home/student-services/student-handbook>.