Group Theory
Syllabus for Mathematics 344/544 Winter 2013
Dr. Cheryl Beaver

MTRF 1-1:50 p.m. MNB 130

FINAL EXAM: Monday, March 18 12-1:50 p.m.
Office: MNB 123 Phone: 503-838-8404
Email: beaverc@wou.edu Web Page: www.wou.edu/~beaverc

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Please feel free to drop by my office during my office hours for help. You do not need to make an appointment to come to office hours. If you have direct scheduling conflicts with my office hours and would like further help, please let me know.

Prerequisites: Mathematics 280 and 341 with a grade of C- or better.


Course Content and Goals: At the end of the term successful students will

- know basic definitions of group theory;
- know and utilize several examples of groups, including permutation groups;
- understand the group theory introduced in class and in the homework
- improve their proof writing and problem solving;
- increase their understanding and appreciation of abstraction in mathematics; and
- improve their writing and reading of mathematical proofs

Homework: Homework from the text and occasionally additional problems will be assigned and (selected problems) graded on a regular basis. Occasionally in-class work will be collected for grading.

Much of your learning will occur while doing the homework assignments. Please carefully read the book and schedule lots of time to work on the homework. It can be helpful to work in groups, but always depending on others to get your work done is a mistake. If you work with others, please site them at the end of the assignment and never
directly copy another person’s work. Proofs require some creativity. It is unlikely that
two proofs of the same problem will look exactly alike. You should understand and write
up your own solution to each problem in your own words.

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given on an as-needed basis. Quizzes will be considered in-
class work and count toward your homework grade.

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. Exams are tentatively
scheduled for 2/8 and 3/8. Missed exams may not be made up except in rare cases with
prior notification and instructor approval. Cell phones must be turned off during exams.

MTH 544 Students only: Students enrolled in this class as MTH 544 will have
additional homework and exam problems. They will also be responsible for a project and
presentation to the class. More details will be provided.

Late homework: Homework is due by 4:30 pm on its due date. If you are not done with
all of your homework by 4:30 on its due date, please turn in what you have done for
partial credit as LATE HOMEWORK IS NOT ACCEPTED. Your lowest homework
score will be dropped. In-class work may not be made up.

Grades: Grades will be based on the following:
MTH 344: Homework: 40% 2 Midterms: 20% each Final: 20%
MTH 544: Homework: 30% Project: 10% 2 Midterms: 20% each Final: 20%

Appropriate Classroom Behavior: You are ultimately responsible for your own
attendance and performance. Disruptive classroom behavior of any kind is not
appropriate. Proscribed Conduct for all students is described in the University Catalog.
Any student found cheating on an exam or copying from another student's exam paper
will receive a zero score on that exam.

Learning Disabilities: If you have a documented learning disability, please talk to me
during the first few days of class, I will be more than happy to accommodate you in any
way that I can. If you have a documented disability which requires any academic
accommodations, you must go to the Office of Disability Services (ODS) for appropriate
coordination of your accommodations. You can drop by APSC 405 or contact ODS at
(503) 838-8250 (V,TTY) to schedule an appointment.

Incomplete Policy: An Incomplete can only be granted for a student who is passing a
class and has a documented emergency that prevents them from completing the course.

Veterans and Active Military Personnel with special circumstances are welcome and
encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the instructor.

Cell Phone Policy¹: TURN THEM OFF AND PUT THEM AWAY!! NO TEXTING
DURING CLASS!

¹ If you are in an emergency situation in which you need to have your cell phone on quiet; please speak to
me about it before class.