Modern Algebra, Section 1  
MATH 541  
Fall 2012

**Meetings:** Van Vleck B115, MWF 9:55am–10:45am

**Lecturer:** Robert Harron  
Email rharron at math.wisc.edu  
Office Van Vleck 319  
Office Hours tbd

**Course website:** http://www.math.wisc.edu/~rharron/teaching/math541/

**Textbook:** I. N. Herstein’s *Abstract Algebra, Third edition*

**Official description:** Groups, normal subgroups, Cayley’s theorem, rings, ideals, homomorphisms, polynomial rings, abstract vector spaces.

**Assignments:** There will be weekly assignments taken mostly from the book. Problems will be posted after each lecture, then bundled together and due at a specified time each week. There will be extra problems for the honours component.

**Exams:** There will be two in class midterms, and a final during the usual exam period:
- Midterm I: Wednesday, Oct. 17 (in class)  
- Midterm II: Monday, Nov. 12 (in class)  
- Final: Friday, December 21, 12:25pm–2:25pm

Check if you have a conflict with these, and if so, email me **within the next week.**

**Grading scheme:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Regular</strong></th>
<th><strong>Honours</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Homework</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm I</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Midterm I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm II</td>
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<td>Midterm II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
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**Course project** 15%

**Remarks:**
- Calculators will **not** be allowed during exams.

**Getting help:** If you are having trouble with the course, or even if there are just some questions you would like to ask, it is important that you do so. Math is a subject that constantly builds on what has come before, so your problems can quickly snowball. Please talk to me after class or stop by my office hours if you have any questions. Or better yet, ask them in class!