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Office Hours: MWF 11–11:50am, or by appointment

Text: Metric Topology: A First Course (online lecture notes), by Paul Bankston

Prerequisites: MATH 2350

Exams/Homework:

- Three 60 point examinations will be given during our usual class time, each testing the material covered since the last exam. The class period immediately prior to each exam will be devoted to review, and the exam solutions will be posted on the course website. The two best of these three exams will count toward the final grade.
- There will be a number of homework problems to be handed in. Each one will be graded out of 3 points, and the twenty best of these will be counted as equivalent to one exam.
- There will be a takehome final exam given out on Friday, April 29 and due at class time on Friday, May 06.
- No makeup exams will be given without arrangements being made beforehand, and only extenuating circumstances will be considered.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best twenty homework problems</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best two hour exams</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>270</td>
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Grading scale:
- A: 92–100%
- AB: 87–91%
- B: 78–86%
- BC: 73–77%
- C: 64–72%
- CD: 59–63%
- D: 50–58%
- F: 0–49%

**Attendance and Deportment:** You are expected to attend all lectures and to be on time. Excessive absences will be noted, and may result in a lowered grade. Norms for classroom conduct are based on respect for the instructor and your fellow students. Distractive behavior, such as using cell phones, reading newspapers, sleeping, surfing the web, or talking to your neighbor, is considered inappropriate.

**Policy on Academic Honesty:** This is laid out in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

**Withdrawal Date:** The final date for a voluntary withdrawal from class this semester is Friday, April 15, 2011.

**Course Goals:** The plan is to cover most of the text, consisting of thirty lectures on the fundamentals of metric topology. The emphasis is on the "rubbery geometric" nature of the subject, and this includes studying the main topological properties of separation, connectedness, and compactness. Topological properties in general are ones that remain invariant when one object is "continuously deformed" into another. In addition to introducing you to the exciting world of topology, my over-arching goal in this course is to help you gather more skills in discovering and communicating proofs of mathematical statements. Welcome aboard!