Abstract Algebra

Instructor:	Paul Balister Office: Dunn Hall 331 Phone: 678-3138 Email: <u>pbalistr@memphis.edu</u>
Class:	MWF 11:30am-12:25pm, Dunn Hall 107
Office Hours:	Fridays, 10:30am-11:30am, Dunn Hall 331, or by appointment
Textbook:	Abstract Algebra, Theory and Applications, by Thomas Judson http://abstract.ups.edu/download/aata-2014 0815.pdf (Chapters 1-6, 9-11, 13, 16-18.)
Description:	This is a first course in Abstract Algebra, covering groups; homomorphisms; rings; integral domains; polynomials; fields. Prerequisites: Math 2702 and 3242, or permission of instructor.
Goals:	In addition to learning about groups, rings, fields etc., key goals include being able to communicate effectively about abstract mathematical concepts, and being able to understand and construct convincing mathematical arguments (i.e., "proofs").
Grades:	A-F with +/- grades will be used. Grades will be based on:
	 Weekly homework assignments (50%) Class participation (10%) A mid-term exam (15%) A final exam (25%)
	Homework will be set on Mondays and will be due the following Friday. (You can turn it in any time before 3pm.) Late homework will not be accepted and will count as a zero score, however the lowest two homework scores will be dropped.
	Class participation will involve active discussion of problems in class, and presenting solutions at the board.
	Students enrolled in Math 6261 will be held to a higher standard and may be assigned additional problems on tests and homework.
	Estimated letter grades based on work done so far will be given immediately after the mid-term and also just before the final.

- Collaboration: Students are allowed, and even encouraged, to discuss homework and other problems with other students. However, the write up of the homework must be the work of the student alone (i.e., no word-for-word copying). Also, if you know how to do a problem, please don't just immediately tell other students the complete solution! Give hints and advice on how to approach the problem instead.
- Dates: Mid-term exam: Friday, October 9, in class. Final exam: Monday, December 7, at 10:30am.