Outline for Math 331 Section 1
Introduction to Modern Algebra
Fall 2000

Meetings: TTH 08:55-10:10 in SH 116
Instructor: Guram Bezhanishvili
Office Hours: MW 09:00-10:00, and by appointment
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Phone: 646-2906
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Text: Algebra (Third Edition) by Saunders Mac Lane and Garrett Birkhoff

Objectives: In Math 331 we will study the very basics of modern algebra (including groups, rings and fields). We will begin our study with necessary portion of naive set theory, then discuss natural numbers and integers. We will define an algebraic structure on the set of integers, and show that the notions of a group and a ring are natural abstractions of the algebraic structure of integers.

These topics are very well covered in the first part of the above textbook. The other books covering these topics are Abstract Algebra (Second Edition) by I.N. Herstein, A First Course in Abstract Algebra by M. Anderson and T. Feil, and Number Theory, An Introduction to Algebra by F. Richman. They are available at our library. In addition, I will ask you to take careful notes in class.

Policies: I will not take attendance. However, I will tolerate neither late arrivals to class nor early departures. I will demand that you write clear prose in the work you turn in. As you progress in the course, I expect to see you develop mathematical style.

Grading: Your course grade will be determined from homework grades (30%), two in class exams (20% each), and a final exam (30%). Homework will be assigned daily and a sample of exercises will be collected periodically for grading. Each midterm exam will consist of five problems, and the final exam will consist of ten problems. I will provide an alternative for brave students. Each midterm exam will contain an additional difficult problem, and the final exam – two additional difficult problems. Each student will have the option to either choose the set of problems, or only the difficult one. You will see samples of “difficult” problems during the course.
**Disabilities:** If you have or believe to have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Office for Services for Students with Disabilities, located at Garcia Annex (phone: 646-6840). Appropriate accommodations may then be provided for you. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of Disabled Student Programs. If you have general questions about the Americans With Disabilities ACT (ADA), call 646-3333.
Federal regulations often prohibit the posting of grades by social security number, or any other scheme, without the written consent of the student. Therefore, if you wish me to post your final grade, give me a secret code (which may be your social security number) and sign the following statement:

I hereby authorize Guram Bezhanishvili to post my final course grade in Math 331 Section 1 with the identifying code:

Code____________________

Signature___________________