

Instructor : Prudence Heck
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Office : Herman Brown 454
Office Hours: TBD

TA : Evelyn Lamb
Textbook : Elementary Number Theory, 6th Edition, by David M. Burton
Class Webpage:

Overview

One of the oldest and most difficult fields of mathematics, number theory is unique in that some of its deepest problems can be formulated in a way that an elementary school student can understand. The goal of this class is to learn the number theory necessary to understand the statements of some of the most elusive theorems and conjectures in mathematics. We will study properties of integers, beginning with divisibility, prime numbers, and congruences. We will then use these fundamentals to study further concepts in number theory. While this is an introductory class, no calculus or higher math is assumed, we will learn various methods for writing proofs and you will be expected to write proofs on the in-class midterm as well as the final.

Homework

Homework will be assigned weekly and three problems from each assignment will be graded for correctness. Because you will not know which problems will be graded, it is expected that everyone complete each assignment. You may work together on the homework, but write up your own solutions and beware of being too dependent on your peers.

Exams

There will be two exams, a midterm and final. Since the final exam schedule may not be known for some time, you should arrange to stay at school until the end of the final exam period. Unfortunately, accommodations cannot be made for those whose travel arrangements conflict with the final exam. If you have a legitimate schedule conflict with an exam let me know as early as possible so that we can try to make arrangements. You will be responsible for any material we cover in class.

Grades

Grades will be determined as follows:

Homework :	40%
Midterm :	30%
Final :	30%

Your lowest homework score will be dropped.

Disability Support

It is the policy of Rice University, as well as the instructor, that students with a disability receive fair and equal treatment in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires academic adjustments or accommodations, please speak with me during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities will also need to contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to comply with Rice University's standards for academic integrity.