Information Sheet for Math 312   Spring 2011

Class Meets: MTRF 12 pm in BH 110
Teacher: Branko Ćurgus
Office Hours: MTRF 11 am (or by appointment) in BH 178
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Sources: • The notes

- Everything said in class and your record of it. It is your responsibility to make sure that your record of what was presented in class is correct.
- Me. You can and should ask me any question. I will help you with a hint or a general philosophy that could be used. If your question has already been discussed in class I will provide a detailed answer. It would be very useful (for both you and me), if you put your questions in writing. You should describe the strategies that you attempted in solving a problem and difficulties that your encountered.
- You. (This should have been the first item on the list.)
- Others. You can talk to other students in class and read their notes. This relates particularly to the material already discussed in class. If you have had substantial assistance in doing a problem, it should be a matter of honor not to use that problem for your class presentation.

Exams: There will be two "mid-term" exams and a comprehensive final exam. The dates for the "mid-term" exams are Thursday, April 28 and Tuesday, May 24. The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2011, 8 - 11 am.

There will be no make-up exams. If you are unable to take an exam for a very serious reason verified in writing, please see me beforehand. This does not apply to the final exam which cannot be taken neither early nor late.

Assignments: There will be two written homework assignments. The assignments will be handed out in class and they will be due one week after they are handed out. They will be graded and the grade will count towards the final grade.

Grading: Each exam, assignment and the total of classroom presentations will be graded by an integer between 0 and 100. Let E1, E2, FE, A1, A2, and CP denote your respective grades. Your final grade FG will be determined by the following formula

$$FG = \lceil 0.2*CP + 0.15*E1 + 0.15*E2 + 0.1*A1 + 0.1*A2 + 0.3*FE \rceil.$$

Your letter grade will be assigned according to the following table.

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F :  0 - 49     D : 50 - 54     C-: 55 - 59     C : 60 - 64     C+: 65 - 69
B-: 70 - 74     B : 75 - 79     B+: 80 - 84     A-: 85 - 89     A : 90 - 100
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Classroom presentations are an important part of this class. You are expected to present your solutions of exercises from the notes. I will grade each presentation by 1, 2 or 3 points. You can also earn 3 points for an immaculately written up solution of an exercise which was not solved in class or the solution presented in class left space for improvement. Solutions that earned points will be posted on the class website. At the end of the quarter you will accumulate certain number of points for classroom presentations, call it PP. To convert this number into an integer between 0 and 100 (which will be your classroom presentations grade CP) I will use the following formula:

$$CP = \text{Min}\Big\{ \lceil CA + (CStD)*(zsPP) \rceil, 100 \Big\}$$

where CA ("the class average") and CStD ("the class standard deviation") stand for the average and the standard deviation of the "class grades" evaluated as $\lceil 0.3*E1 + 0.3*E2 + 0.2*A1 + 0.2*A2 \rceil$, while the number zsPP is the z-score of your PP number.

Warning: This course will have fewer fixed deadlines than your other courses. Your <u>continuous</u> active involvement is necessary for the success in this course. Acquiring the mastery of the material in this course is a very gradual process. Spending few days studying before exams and presentations will not be sufficient. Be warned that yielding to the temptation to put other courses first will have serious consequences.

It is very important to keep good notes of what is presented in class. A part of your daily homework is to revise and critically assess the notes that you have taken. If you are not absolutely confident that your notes, after your revision, are correct, please talk to me or other students.