

Math 453 (Number Theory), B13/B14

Spring 2022

Professor AJ Hildebrand

General Course Information

- **Course Website:** The Moodle site for this course will serve as the primary course website, and provide access to grades, homework assignments, and class materials for all students enrolled in the course. To access this site, log into Moodle (<https://learn.illinois.edu>), and select the course (Math 453 B13/B14 SP22) from the Dashboard.
- **Date/Time/Room:** MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am, 241 Altgeld Hall. **The first week of the semester (i.e., the class periods on January 19 and 21, 2022) will be online; a Zoom link will be posted at the Moodle course page shortly before the first class meeting. After the first week (beginning on Monday, January 24), the class will return to an in person format.**
- **Instructor Contact:** AJ Hildebrand, email ajh@illinois.edu. **When sending me email, please use your official illinois.edu address and include the string "Math 453" in the subject line.**
- **Office Hours:** I will hold office hours MWF after class (i.e., the hour beginning at 10 am) in the regular classroom, 241 Altgeld Hall.
- **Text and Syllabus:** "Elementary Number Theory" by James K. Strayer. We will cover Chapters 1-4 essentially in full, and selected topics from the remainder of the text, depending on the time available and student interest.

Grading Information

Your course grade will be based on the accumulated number of points earned from the following components: (1) the Final Exam, (2) three midterm exams, and (3) homework assignments. The total number of points to be earned is 500 points, broken down as follows:

- **FINAL EXAM: 150 points.** The Final Exam will be given at the official final exam time slot for this class, **Friday, May 6, 2022, 8 am - 11 am, Room TBA.**
- **MIDTERM EXAMS: 250 points.** Three in-class midterms, each worth 100 points. **The lowest midterm score will count only 50%; that is, the lowest half of a midterm will be dropped.** Put differently, the 50% drop-score policy means that the points penalty from your **worst** midterm is cut in half; for example, if your lowest midterm score is 70/100, instead of losing 30 points from this midterm, you will only lose 15 points.
- **HOMEWORK: 100 points.** There will be 11 weekly homework assignments,

each worth 10 points, **with the lowest score dropped. No assignments will be due during the first two weeks of class; the first assignment will be given out by January 24, and will be due January 31.**

Letter grade assignments: Letter grades will be based on the total number of points earned at the end of the semester, using the standard 90/80/70/60 scale (96.6% = A+, 93.3% = A, 90% = A-, etc.), with possibly some adjustments downward (resulting in a **more generous** curve) depending on the overall score distribution in the class. For example, if you end up with 450 out of 500 points (i.e., 90%), you are **guaranteed** at least an A-; 400 points will **guarantee** at least a B-; and so on. The actual cutoffs may end up being more generous, i.e., more favorable to you!

Course Policies

- **Group work policy:** Group work on the homework is fine and indeed encouraged, with the following restrictions:
 - You are free to discuss problems with other students and exchange ideas, but **you must write up the solution yourself, in your own words.** Blindly copying another student's work would defy the purpose of the homework assignments and would backfire in exams where each student is on his/her own.
 - **Collaboration on extra credit problems is not allowed.**
- **Missed exams/homework:** If you miss an exam or homework and have a valid excuse, I will mark the exam/homework as "excused"; in that case, your score for the exam or homework you missed will be the average of the scores on your other exams or homeworks. Valid excuses include illness, an out-of-town job interview, etc., and must be appropriately documented, e.g., by an **absence letter** issued by the Office of the Dean of Students, 300 Turner Student Services Building, 610 East John Street. For more information click on the above link.
- **Attendance.** This is an in-person class (except for the first week), and attendance is expected. **If you feel ill, or if you are in Covid isolation/quarantine, please do not come to class. Contact me (ajh@illinois.edu) as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements (e.g., turning in homework by email); I would be happy to set up a Zoom meeting with you to go over any material you missed.**
- **Accommodations.** To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-1970, e-mail disability@illinois.edu or go to the [DRES website](#). If you require DRES accommodation (such as extended time) for exams, please email your accommodation letter to me (ajh@illinois.edu) at least one week before the first exam.
- **Covid-19 Policies.** Please observe the University's [Covid-19 Policies](#). In particular, to attend the in-person class meetings, students must have "Building Access Granted" status and wear face coverings.