Information About the Final Exam

The final exam will be given in our normal classroom on Friday, December 16, starting at 2:30PM. Please note that the starting time is earlier than our normal class meeting time. Please bring your portfolio with you to the exam for a final review.

The exam will be weighted equally with the two prior exams, and will be similar in length to the prior exams. About half of the points on the exam will be apportioned to problems covering the material we have studied since the second midterm: 7.8, 8.1, and 8.2. The other half will be about the material up to and including section 7.7.

The material covering 7.8, 8.1, and 8.2 will be similar to the prior exams in that it will be a mix of items testing factual knowledge (definitions and theorems), procedural knowledge, and proofs. The review material will include factual knowledge items on a small sample of the material we have covered. For this part there will be less emphasis on procedural knowledge and proofs.

One student requested some *big picture* test items, rather than items about miscellaneous definitions, notation, theorems, etc, but I was not able to come up with any of the requested items. Instead, you will find one test item that introduces a new concept that we have not studied yet, and asks you to prove a theorem about that concept. This is not a big picture item, but it is representative of an important methodological aspect of the course. It is standard practice in the study of modern algebra to create definitions of concepts like this, and then to prove theorems about them. The theorem on the exam is not profound, and the proof will be possible using the same style of reasoning we have used all semester long. Students who have obtained a general command of the flavor and methodology of modern algebra should be able to complete such a problem.

Office Hours During Final Exams Week

All office hours will be in my office in the lower level of Letts.

Tuesday: 2:30PM – 4:30PM. I will stay as late as 5:30PM but only by prior arrangement.

Wednesday: 11AM – 2PM. This is the day of our department holiday celebration in Gray Hall. I will plan to go there at 11:30 unless I am meeting a student. If you want to find me between 11:30 and 2, I will either be in my office or in Gray Hall. Feel free to find me at the party.

Thursday: 1:30 – 3:00PM. I will only show up for these office hours if someone tells me in advance that they want to meet me.

Friday: 11 AM – 2:30PM. I expect to be in my office.

Other Possibilities. If you want to meet me but have conflicts at all of the listed times, send me an email. I could be available early Wednesday or Friday morning, or later than 3 on Thursday, if there is a need that cannot otherwise be met.