1. OFFICE HOURS: My office is in the Mathematics and Science Center, Room W-408. My office hours are 2:00-3:00 Monday-Thursday or by appointment. You can email me for an appointment. I encourage you to use email for help. I am normally online all day.

2. SYLLABUS: This course is not aimed at covering material. It’s purpose is to provide a transition from courses where you learn to work problems by looking at examples to advanced courses where you are expected to read and understand proofs of theorems and to write correct proofs.

3. GOALS:
   1) To learn to carefully read and understand definitions and statements of theorems.
   2) To learn to develop original (to you) solutions to problems you have not seen before.
   3) To learn to understand and write up correct solutions to problems.
   4) To learn to be critical of proofs.

I strongly believe that each of you can develop your skills at creating mathematics and that this is done, like learning to ride a bicycle, by trying, learning from your mistakes, and trying again.

4. HOW WILL THE COURSE BE CONDUCTED: I will hand out sheets with problems to be worked on and an indication of what you can use to work them. The sheets will have definitions and it is important that you understand and use them. I expect you to try all the problems. I do not expect you to get all of them. I will ask you to show your work at the board. When a problem is done in class, you should watch carefully and be sure you understand it. Ask questions about anything you do not completely understand.

At the board, draw a picture, label important objects and explain how you got your solution. Try to turn your presentation into a discussion.

5. GRADING: I will have an in class midterm and final. Usually I count the final exam 15-20%, and the midterm 10-15%, leaving 65-75% for class participation and homework. Our final is 8:30-11:00 am, Thursday, 05/01/2008. For homework I will ask you to write up one problem each week after they have been done in class. I will allow you to rewrite the same problem to improve your grade. We will discuss in class what day your problems will be due. Your homework should be grammatically and mathematically correct. You will get an A if your solution is correct and well written. A B means I think you know how to do the problem but it is not written well. A C means I think you do not know how to do the problem and it is not written well. A D or F means you need help and you should ask in class or in my office about the problem. I hope each of you will recognize that we all make mistakes trying to prove things in mathematics and we should not be bothered by it. Indeed we learn much from our mistakes.
All assignments are due at the **beginning of class** and rewrites are due with the next assignment. I will not normally accept late work even if you miss class. If you have to miss class then you can have someone bring your work to me. I will grade your paper only if it is turned in at the start of class or before. I recognize that emergencies can prevent you from meeting class or turning your homework in and I will take this into consideration.

When working on your homework assignment you may discuss the problem with anyone from this class. Do not talk with students from previous classes. You can use any reference books you want. **Once you have decided to write up a problem I will expect you to treat your work under the honor system as if it were an exam in class and use only blank paper and no notes except for the handouts.**