Math 439  Topology  TCCW 369  TTh 9:35-10:55  Spring 2008

Instructor: Claus Ernst  Office TCCW 317  Phone  745 6224 (o)
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Office Hours  MW  9:05–10:00
TTh  11:05-12:00

If the above time don’t work for you, make an appointment to see me. I expect that there will be
questions and you need to talk to me regularly.

Class Hours  MW  8:00-8:55  Math 126
TR  8:00-9:20  Math 126
TTh  9:35-10:55  Math 439

Prerequisite:
Math 317 or permission of instructor

Textbook:
Introduction to Topology and Geometry by Saul Stahl, Wiley&Sons, Inc 2005

Your duties:
There will be regular homework assignments including one project for everybody. I will collect and grade all
homework assignments. They are worth 50% of your grade. The project is worth 15% of your grade. There will
be a midterm (15%, sometime in March) and a final (20%, May 9, 10:30-12:30). The graduate students will
have to work additional homework assignments to justify to the G-label.

Course Description:
This course will concentrate on the geometric aspects of topology, in particular on surfaces, graphs and knots.
In order to talk about these geometric objects we will encounter a wide variety of topics and aids, such as
calculus, groups, vector fields, and graphs.

As in most upper level mathematics courses a lot of emphasis will be on improving your proof writing skills.
There will be regular homework assignments. You can talk to each other about the homework, but don't copy
homework from somebody. Write your homework carefully and clearly. I expect that you can explain your
proofs to me or to the class. I will ask each of you on occasion to represent homework in class. The homework
will take time (10 hours a set), so start early. You can't do a homework assignment in a single day. Please read
my comments to improve your skills in writing proofs. All of you will do one project, which should result in a
half-hour presentation to the class at the end of the semester.

Students with disabilities:
Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services)
for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room 445, Potter Hall. The OFSDS
telephone number is (270) 745-5004.

Per university policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without
a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.