Algebraic Topology Syllabus

Course Number: Math 537-001  
Quarter: Winter 2011  
Teacher: Patrick Clarke  
Email: pclarke@math.drexel.edu  
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30pm - 4:45pm  
Place: Matheson Hall Room 310  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Objectives. The purpose of this course is to learn the foundations of Algebraic Topology. We will use the text:

A Concise Course in Algebraic Topology, by J. Peter May

This book is available online at

http://www.math.uchicago.edu/~may/CONCISE/ConciseRevised.pdf

Important Dates.  
January 4: First Class  
January 13: Last day to Drop  
February 3: Midterm  
February 10: Last day to Withdraw  
March 10: Last Class  
March 13-19: Final Week

You must notify me and receive my approval by the end of the 3rd week if you will miss a class for any reason.

Grading and Assignments.  
Attendance 13%  
Assignments 37%  
Midterm 25%  
Final 25%

Assignments are due in the first 5 minutes of the class one week from the day they are given. Arriving more than 5 minutes late to, or leaving 5 minutes early from a class will deduct .5% from your grade.
**Expectations.** In class you are expected to be a positive influence, pay attention, answer questions, give feedback, and occasionally come to the board.

Your work should be clear and correct. Err on the side of more details rather than less, but don’t lose your train of thought.

If you solved a problem with the help of a website, paper, or friend, please cite them. For example, before the solution to a problem, you might write:

    I used the approach to this problem found in Karen Uhlenbeck’s post on mathoverflow’s Closed-Sets thread,

or

    I would like to thank Grigori Perelman for useful conversations about this problem.

You can consider yourself well-prepared for a class if you understand all the previous material in the course well enough to teach it, and have completed any homework due. Expect to dedicate 5 or more hours per week to the course outside of class.