University of Washington
Math 441
Fall 2015
General Information

Instructor:
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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:00–4:00, and by appointment.

Text: Topology, 2nd edition, by J. R. Munkres. This book is available at the University Bookstore. I have also put the book Foundations of Topology by C.W. Patty on reserve in the Math Library. You may find the first 10 pages of this book to be useful when I discuss metric spaces.

About the course and prerequisites: This course is an introduction to the basic elements of topology, beginning with metric spaces. I plan to cover the first three chapters of the Munkres text, plus perhaps some additional topics. Since our approach will be rigorous and somewhat abstract, you should be comfortable with reading and writing proofs. If you have not already taken Math 424, then I do not recommend this class unless your performance in Math 300 and Math 327–8 was strong: I would say at least an A- in Math 300 and a B+ average in 327-8.

Homework: Homework will be assigned more or less weekly and will require you to write careful proofs. It is expected to be demanding. Most of your homework will consist of problems from your text, but I may also write additional problems. Although you are encouraged to share ideas on homework problems with your classmates, I expect you to actually write your homework on your own. If you use sources other than the assigned text and your lecture notes to do the homework, you must reference them; otherwise you are committing academic fraud. *I am well aware that solutions to many of the assigned problems can be found on the Internet. You are not permitted to use these to do the homework. In addition, you may not make use of any sort of discussion boards involving people outside the class for homework assistance. If you violate these rules on any homework assignment, you will receive a 0 on that assignment. I may also refer your case to the appropriate University committee on academic dishonesty.* In principle, late homework will not be accepted.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will be given in class and is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 30. The final exam will be on Thursday, December 17 from 8:30–10:20. Absences from the midterm will
be dealt with on a case by case basis. Only under unavoidable emergencies (e.g., illness, death in family) will you be allowed to miss an exam without penalty. Such emergencies should be documented if at all possible. Note, however, that if you take an exam you cannot claim illness as an excuse for doing poorly. In certain other situations (e.g., athletic meets, family obligations), you may arrange to take an exam early. This must, however, be set up well in advance and does not apply to the final. (Do not make any arrangements to leave town before December 17.) I will follow the procedures outlined in the Examination Guidelines (look under Academic Calendar and Final Exam Schedule) in dealing with final exam absences.

Grading:

- Graded Homework: 25%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final: 45%

The grade of I (incomplete) will be given only under the conditions in the University of Washington General Catalog (under "Grading Systems").