

MATH 818, ALGEBRA AND GEOMETRY, FALL 2010

COURSE OUTLINE

1. LECTURES

Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-12:20 AQ 5020.

We will meet **Thursday September 9** to decide amongst us what topics to cover and how you will be evaluated. **Please attend if you want to have your say.** Regular lectures will begin Tuesday September 14.

2. INSTRUCTOR

- Karen Yeats
- SC K 10508
- Office hours to be determined
- karen_yeats@sfu.ca
- course website <http://math.sfu.ca/~kyeats/teaching/math818.html>

3. PREREQUISITES

Undergraduate abstract algebra or come talk to me.

4. TEXTBOOK

Basic Algebraic Geometry 1, by Igor Shafarevich. We will also use *Algebraic Curves* by William Fulton, which is available free online at <http://www.math.lsa.umich.edu/~wfulton/CurveBook.pdf>

5. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to algebraic geometry with supporting commutative algebra.

6. OUTLINE

The detailed outline will be decided on **Thursday September 9** please come and be a part of it. I am assuming that most people have *not* already seen varieties, and thus we will begin at the beginning. However, September 9 exists to test that assumption, to determine how rapidly we move past the basic definitions, and to determine what topics beyond the basics are of interest to the class.

7. HOMEWORK

Doing good, difficult problems is the key to learning mathematics. There will be regular assignment worth 40% of the final grade. If your assignment will be late, you must inform me **before** the hand-in deadline (otherwise solutions will be posted immediately). Lates will not automatically be granted. **There are no retroactive lates.**

Please credit any help you received from other students, books, or other sources when you write up your problems. **Don't plagiarize.** (Good guidelines to avoid excessive help from others are to think about the problem yourself for at least a day before seeking help, and always to write up your work independently, without looking at books or notes of discussions with others.)

8. GRADING

- Assignments: 40%
- The remaining 60% will be made of some combination of exams and project/presentations. Details will be decided on **Thursday September 9**. Please attend.