GENERAL REMARKS

The main text for the course is the following book:

> **J. R. Munkres.** *Topology* (Second Edition), *Prentice-Hall, Saddle River NJ*, 2000. ISBN: 0–13–181629–2.

For the second half of the course, we shall also use an alternate reference for some topics:

> **A. Hatcher.** *Algebraic Topology* (Third Paperback Printing), *Cambridge University Press, New York NY*, 2002. ISBN: 0–521–79540–0.

The book by Hatcher can be legally downloaded from the Internet at no cost for personal use, and here is the link to the online version:

> www.math.cornell.edu/∼hatcher/AT/ATpage.html

A substantial amount of additional course material will be posted online to a course directory

> http://math.ucr.edu/∼res/math205A-2014

including an outline (`coursetopics2014.pdf`), which lists the course topics and keys them to sections of the course texts, and two sets of more or less self-contained notes for the two main parts of the course; the first part is covered in `gentopnotes2014.pdf`, and the second is covered in `fundgp-notes.pdf`. Some sections near the beginning of the first part will be covered fairly rapidly because most students have already studied with some version of the topics covered there, usually in an upper level undergraduate real variables course and sometimes also in an undergraduate topology course. Additional information on the course directory is given below.

Contact information. My office is Surge 221, and it is around the corner from the Department's administrative front desk (Surge 202). Office hours will be announced. My office telephone number is 951-827-6459 (as usual, suppress the area code from inside the 951 region, and also replace the 827 by a 2 if calling from an extension at UCR). Another highly recommended option is electronic mail; my full address is `schultz@math.ucr.edu`, and `reinhard.schultz@ucr.edu` is another valid address. Use of electronic mail is often easier than trying to play telephone tag. **IMPORTANT:** The default filters for electronic mail on the Department network are not very restrictive and sometimes there is an enormous amount of garbage in my electronic mailbox. Normally I have electronic mail forwarded to a web-based mailbox which has stronger spam filters; the latter might delete messages with subject lines like "urgent request" or "please help" which are frequently abused by spammers, and therefore I **strongly recommend** that you include something like **Math 205A** in the subject heading so that your message does not get inadvertently deleted without being read. Also, since the authors of junk messages often use only capital letters in their subject headings, this should be avoided as well.

Grading policy: There will be three in-class examinations, the first of which is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, and will count for 33 per cent of the course grade. The second examination is tentatively scheduled to take place on Monday, November 24, and it will also count for per cent of the course grade. The third examination will take place on Friday, December 12 (the last day of the tenth week), and it will count for 34 per cent of the course grade.

Although homework problems will not be collected or graded, students are responsible for knowing how to do all the unstarred exercises listed on the course homework file; the starred exercises are generally more challenging, and trying them is recommended as a way of testing one's understanding of the course material. Some problems from the homework are likely to appear on the examinations.

No books, notes or electronic devices (including cell phones) can be used during examinations.

Course handouts and notes: All printed handouts for the course will be available on the World Wide Web from the previously mentioned site (note the year!!):

$$\text{http://www.math.ucr.edu/}{\sim}\text{res/math205A-2014}$$

The contents of this directory include a copy of this handout (`aabInformation.pdf`), the course outline mentioned previously, a set of definitive (but not perfect!) course notes, not necessarily identical to material covered in lectures), the homework assignments and (some) solutions, and various files containing supplementary material. All files except a few ordinary text files are `pdf` files which can be opened, downloaded, and they can be read or printed with the free Acrobat readers that are available or easily downloadable on most if not all electronic communications devices (desktop or laptop computers, tablets or smartphones).

There are also directories containing background material from some fairly closely related courses in the directory

$$\text{http://math.ucr.edu/}{\sim}\text{res}$$

including directories for older versions of the 205 courses.

I have tried to eliminate typographical and other errors in the online files, but I probably have not found them all. If something looks incorrect or unclear, it may have been already fixed, so the first thing to do is check the online course directory to see if the current online versions of the files have been corrected or clarified. If not, please let me know so that changes can be made as needed.

IMPORTANT. (1) *Please contact me immediately if you have problems viewing or printing out any of these files.*

(2) *These files are only intended for classroom purposes and are not meant for widespread public circulation.* In some cases further distribution may be a violation of copyright laws or the terms of use for material in the files.

Further comments. Student questions during primary class sessions are encouraged. Please do not hesitate to ask questions, especially if you do not understand something or if something in the lecture seems wrong — even if everyone else seems to understand. Questions on homework or review are generally best answered at the beginning of class and should be asked at that time. In general such questions are encouraged, but in some cases it might be necessary to limit such question periods or to post the answers online after class.

I shall attempt to answer electronic messages regarding the course in a reasonably timely manner, especially during regular working hours, and in some instances outside of such hours (but there are no guarantees). Complete answers to more complicated questions may require additional time.

Disability issues: Students who have been certified as eligible for academic adjustments under existing laws should contact the primary instructor within the next week with the necessary supporting materials. Further information on campus services for students with disabilities is available at the following sites:

$$\text{http://www.specialservices.ucr.edu/swd/default.html}$$

$$\text{http://www.specialservices.ucr.edu/swd/aboutus.html}$$