

GENERAL REMARKS

The texts for the course are the following two books:

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

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/math205B-2012>

including an outline ([coursetopics2012.pdf](#)), which lists the course topics and keys them to sections of the course texts, and a set of more or less self-contained notes for the course ([algtopnotes2012.pdf](#)). 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). Normally I plan to be available in my office between 2:30 and 3:30 on Mondays, and at other times by appointment. 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. Therefore I **strongly recommend** that you include something like **Math 205B** 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 one in-class examination, which is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, and will count for 25 per cent of the course grade. The final examination during the last week of the quarter (Monday, March 19, 9:00-11:00; **NOTE** it starts one hour later than the officially scheduled time and will only last for two hours) will count for 50 per cent of the course grade. There will also be one or two written take-home assignments that will count for the remaining 25 per cent of the grade. One will be worth 10 per cent and will be due Wednesday, February 1. The other will be due at the beginning of the final examination and will be worth 15 per cent.

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:

<http://www.math.ucr.edu/~res/math205B-2012>

The contents of this directory include a copy of this handout ([aabInformation.pdf](#)), the course outline mentioned previously, informal 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 available as pdf files. These can be opened, downloaded, read or printed with the free pdf readers that are currently available or easily downloadable for most PC's (including both Macintosh and Unix based systems — there are also such readers for some smart cell phones and similar pocket-sized devices or pads).

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

<http://math.ucr.edu/~res>

including directories for older versions of the 205 courses.

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:

<http://www.specialservices.ucr.edu/swd/default.html>

<http://www.specialservices.ucr.edu/swd/aboutus.html>