

Math 731, Fall 2006

Dr. Sarah Raynor

Textbook: Topology, James R. Munkres

Office: Manchester 334

Office Extension: 4466

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 2:00-3:00pm. Feel free to drop by my office any time that I am in.

Email: raynorsg@wfu.edu

Course:

This course is a first course in topology, the mathematical study of shapes and deformations. It will assume that you have had a course in advanced calculus. We will spend the first two weeks of the course reviewing fundamentals (Ch. 1 of Munkres). If this review is insufficient for you, it will be your responsibility to make sure you learn the chapter. The main part of the course will be the study of point-set topology, comprising chapters 2 and 3 of Munkres. As time permits, we will discuss other topological topics, such as surfaces and knots.

Assignments:

There will be no graded homework in this course. However, I will suggest problems from the book for every section that we discuss, and I expect that you will attempt to complete them to the best of your ability. I will be available to discuss these problems outside of class, and I also encourage you to discuss them with your classmates. I may occasionally ask you to be prepared to discuss a particular question or problem in class.

Evaluation: There are 3 components of your final grade:

1. There will be two take-home exams during the term, which are worth 25% of your grade each.
2. There will be a cumulative take-home final exam worth 40% of your grade.
3. Your class participation will be worth 10% of your grade.

I have tentatively scheduled the take home exams for the weekends of September 22 and October 27. Please let me know immediately if these dates will be a problem for you.