



**Texas A&M University - San Antonio**  
**Department of Computational, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences**  
**Math 4340: Modern Algebra, Section 001**  
**Spring 2025**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jingbo Liu

**Class Meeting:** MW 2:00pm-3:15pm

**Classroom:** Hall 205

**E-mail:** [jliu@tamusa.edu](mailto:jliu@tamusa.edu)

**Office Hours:** MW: 3:30pm-4:30pm (Hall), MF: 12:00pm-1:00pm (STEM), or by appointment.

**Please make an appointment with me via email if you want to meet online, so that I can set up an online session on Blackboard in advance.**

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Office Phone:** (210) 784-2812

**Office:** Hall 314T

### Course Description and Material

**Catalog Description:** A study of basic algebraic structures with applications from algebraic or analytic number theory. Topics include properties of integers, prime factorization, congruences, groups, subgroups, quotient groups, homomorphisms, integral domains and rings. Math 4340 helps students develop Critical Thinking, Communication, and Empirical and Quantitative Skills by focusing on student understanding of key concepts and appropriate applications of modern algebra.

**Prerequisite:** Math 3325 and one of the following: Math 3415, Math 3370, Math 3340, Math 4341; all Prerequisite(s) require a grade of "C" or higher.

**Recommended Textbook:** Contemporary Abstract Algebra (10<sup>th</sup> edition). Joseph A. Gallian  
Taylor & Francis Group. ISBN-13: 978-0367651787.

**Suggested Reading:** James McKernan. <https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/18-703-modern-algebra-spring-2013/>

**Student Learner Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding and knowledge of properties of groups, which include groups, cyclic groups, cosets, subgroups, symmetric groups, normal subgroups, group homomorphisms, quotient groups, and group actions.
- Demonstrate understanding and knowledge of properties of rings, which include rings, domains, ring homomorphisms, ideals, and fields.
- Demonstrate the ability of applying mathematical proving techniques in simple modern algebra problems.
- Appreciate and understand the foundation of modern algebra.

**List of Topics:** Topics to be covered include but are not limited to the following:

- Chapter 0 Preliminaries.
- Chapters 1~3 Groups; finite groups; subgroups.
- Chapters 4~5 Cyclic groups; permutation groups.
- Chapters 6&10 Group homomorphisms and isomorphisms.
- Chapter 7 Cosets and Lagrange's Theorem.
- Chapter 8 External direct products.
- Chapter 9 Normal subgroups and factor groups.
- Chapter 11 Fundamental theorem of finite abelian groups.
- Chapters 12~15 Rings, domains, ideals, and ring homomorphisms.

The instructor reserves the right to modify/update the topics as appropriate.

**NOTE:** This class meets twice a week. Aside from the three hours that you spend in class each week, you should devote at least another 4~6 hours to studying on your own: reading the book and my lecture notes, working out your homework assignments, and solving some extra related problems for practice etc. You are responsible for all materials/topics discussed in this class.

**Active Learning and Inquiry Based Learning:** This course implements active learning and inquiry-based learning approaches throughout, and you are strongly encouraged to preview the teaching materials and be aware of many in-class participation and self/group study activities.

### Course Expectations and Requirements

**Class Attendance:** Your active participation strengthens our learning community, and your questions and perspectives help everyone develop deeper understanding. I encourage you to attend classes regularly and be prepared to participate in discussions, in-class exercises, and problem presentations. Class attendance is taken at the beginning or at the end of each class. In addition, if an unavoidable situation prevents you from being on time or if you must leave early, **please minimize class interruption.**

**Quizzes:** There will be a 15~20-minute in-class quiz emphasizing the most recently covered topics roughly every two weeks, and there will be around 6 in total where only the best 5 of them will be counted as portion for your final grades.

**Examinations:** There will be three exams throughout the semester, each administered at the scheduled time. Exceptions may be made for legitimate reasons, but they must be approved by me. If you are unable to attend an exam, you must notify me formally within 24 hours of the scheduled exam time. In certain circumstances, someone else may notify me on your behalf. You will need to provide a valid reason for your absence, along with supporting documentation. You can notify me either via email or in person with a written notice. If you know in advance that you will be unable to take the exam at the regular time, please contact me ahead of time to make alternative arrangements. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a **GRADE OF ZERO** for the missed exam.

The schedules will be announced at least a week ahead of time when the time comes both on Blackboard and via email. They can be either in-class 75-minutes exams, taken home projects, and/or hybrid.

Test 1 covers Chapter 0~4 (only selected important topics).

Test 2 covers Chapters 5~11 (only selected important topics).

Final exam is comprehensive (only selected important topics).

**NOTE:** Graphic TI-83 or higher calculators, cell phones, laptops, i-pads, kindles, and any other electronic or mobile devices will absolutely be **NOT** allowed during the quizzes/tests/final exam. Once found, your quizzes/tests/final exam will receive a **GRADE OF ZERO**. If this happened in a recursive manner, then the instructor would report to the university as an academic dishonesty issue.

**Assignments:** Homework assignments for this course must be submitted by their due dates, which will be posted on Blackboard and/or announced in class by the instructor. After each section of the textbook is covered, problems will be assigned and posted online on Blackboard under "Assignments," with the due date clearly specified.

Your work should be legible and presented neatly. If your work is unclear or illegible, you will not receive any credit. It is important to write clear, readable solutions, as they will also serve as valuable material for review. You must show both the final answer and the steps leading to it. Simply providing the correct answer will **NOT** earn credit. While you may discuss homework problems with peers, you must write up the solutions independently and fully understand the mathematics and algorithms involved. Please always be mindful of academic integrity.

**Late Assignments:** Do not wait until the last day to begin your homework. It is important to work on the problems consistently throughout the week. Each assignment is worth 100 points, and late submissions will incur a penalty of 10 points per day. For example, if the assignment is one day late, the maximum possible score will be 90; if it is two days late, the maximum score will be 80, and so on.

**Presentations/Debates:** You are expected to actively participate in class by presenting and discussing problems that emphasize the most recently covered topics, which will be related to and complement the homework assignments.

### Grading Policy

Assignments: 10%    Participation: 5%    Quizzes: 20%    Tests: 20% each    Final Exam: 25%

A = 90~100%    B = 80~89.9%    C = 70-79.9%    D = 60~69.9%    F = 0~59.9%

**Final Grade** =  $10\% \times \text{Average of HWs} + 5\% \times \text{Participation} + 20\% \times \text{Quizzes} + 20\% \times (\text{Test 1} + \text{Test 2}) + 25\% \times \text{Final Exam}$

**NOTE:** \*The final grade is a **weighted** average. Please do **NOT** simply take the average of all the grades posted on the blackboard as your final grade.

\*The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

\*The final examination is a comprehensive exam and is required of all students. The final exam may also replace a low or missing test grade.

\*The grading policy may be amended during the semester at my discretion.

### No Use of Generative AI Permitted

All work submitted by you must be generated by yourself, working individually or in groups. You should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for you, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates A&M-SA's standards of academic integrity.

## IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

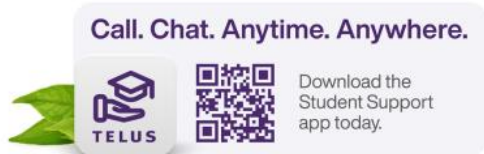
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit [tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

*Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').*

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including

students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu); 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

#### *Students' Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

#### *Students' Responsibilities*



1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Important Dates:

January 21	First day of class
March 10-16	Spring Break – No classes
April 18	Study Day – No classes
April 21	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
April 28	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
May 5	Last day of classes
May 6	Study Day – No classes
May 7-13	Final exams

*The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>*