

Syllabus for Topology

Jonathan L.F. King
University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611-2082, USA
squash@ufl.edu
Webpage <http://people.clas.ufl.edu/squash/>
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Texts. **Topology, a first course**, by James Munkres. **Set theory and metric spaces**, by Irving Kaplansky.

Overview. Welcome. The main text is Munkres' book. I plan to cover chaps 1-5 & chap 7, as well as some extra material on the Baire Category theorem and applications to dynamics.

Part way through the semester I will pass out a cryptic set of notes, with many problems and "Quexercises". Towards the end of this semester, we as a class will decide our emphasis for the second semester. Reasonable possibilities are: Some algebraic topology, The Borel hierarchy, Introduction to Topological Dynamics, Special topological properties of 2 and 3 dimensional space, Elementary Descriptive Set Theory.

Some Requirements. We will use email extensively, so everyone will need an email account. For those who do not have one, I will arrange for one on the math dept. system. You will need to learn *how to read* and *how to send* email. Homework and special assignments will be primarily distributed by email. Manuals on using email are in the lab.

Most of the time you will present your arguments to your fellow students on the blackboard. Occasionally I will assign a special homework problem which you are to type up in either L^AT_EX or AMST_EX.

General comments. Make arrangements with several classmates so that –in the unfortunate event that you miss a class– you are able to get complete notes, changes in exams dates, and so on. (This is especially important since we will often do material which is not in the text.)

I will pass out a book-reference list in a few days. We will discuss exams/grading in the second class.

Conclusion

Please remember that you are encouraged to work on homework problems together. I may assign some communal homework projects. *J. King*

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syllabus.Topo1997t.latex
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