Math 681 Syllabus Matroid Theory

Spring 2014

Instructor:	Dr. Haidong Wu	Office: Hume 316
Office Hours:	M, W 2:30-3:30 T, TH 9:30-	-10:30
Phone:	662-915-7416 E-mail: hwu@olemiss.edu	
Class Time:	M, W 9:30-10:45	Location: Hume 321
Textbook:	Matroid Theory, 2 nd edition, by	y James G. Oxley, Oxford University Press

Course contents and goals: This is an introductory course to matroid theory. Matroid theory is a branch of discrete mathematics with basic links to graphs, lattices, codes, transversals, and projective geometries. It is a natural generalization of graph theory and projective geometry and provides a framework for describing many important problems in discrete mathematics. We plan to cover Chapters 1-5. Our main goals are to provide the students with a solid background in matroid theory, to prepare for future courses and/or studies in matroid theory and combinatorics, and enhance their critical thinking and analytical reasoning abilities.

FINAL GRADE: There will be homework assignments (100 points), 2 tests (100 points each), and a final exam (150 points). The total is 450 points. The following point scale will be used to determine your final grade.

Grade Points Necessary for Grade

А	90% or better	A-	88%-89%
B+	86%-87%	В	80%-85%
B-	78%-79%	C+	76%-77%
С	70%-75%	C-	68%-69%
D	60%-67%		
F	Below 60%		

Tentative Test dates: Test 1: Wednesday 2/26/2014; Test 2: Wednesday 4/9/2014

VERY IMPORTANT:

- 1. If a test is missed for ANY reason, a grade of 0 will be given. There will be NO make up tests given for ANY reason.
- 2. The lowest test grade will be replaced by the final exam percentage. Do not miss (for any reason) more than one major test. There will not be ANY means to make up a test. Note that the homework grade cannot be replaced.
- 3. Any person who must miss a scheduled exam because of an official University function must reschedule and take this exam at a time BEFORE the exam is scheduled to be given. NO OTHER rescheduling will be allowed.
- 4. An "I" grade will not be given without the permission of the Department of Mathematics.
- 5. Students must show all work for each test question and arrive at a correct answer.
- 6. Any student having three or more final examinations scheduled for the same day will arrange with the instructor to take the 12 noon examination or the 7:30 p.m. examination on some other mutually satisfactory date.
- 7. Every student must take the final exam at the time scheduled. The only exceptions are those students affected by # 3 or # 6 above.
- 8. Please bring 3 large blue books (no names) to Dr. Wu as soon as possible.

<u>ATTENDANCE POLICY</u> For classes that meet three days a week, students are allowed (5) absences. For classes that meet two days a week, students are allowed (3) absences. Ten points are deducted from the final point total for each absence above the limit. It is the student's responsibility to make sure his/her attendance record is correct

CALCULATORS: Calculators and cell phones calculators are prohibited in all tests and the final.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: All cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic equipment should be turned off during the class period.

Cheating: The following statement is the policy of the Department of Mathematics in Math 681 regarding cheating: **Offenses:** Cheating on any exam or quiz, theft or attempted theft of exam questions, possession of exam questions prior to the time for examination, or the use of an illegal calculator on tests or quizzes shall all be offenses subject to appropriate penalties.

Penalties: The penalty for commission of any offense set out above is failure in the course and, subject to the approval of the Chancellor, dismissal or suspension from the University.

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE FOR 2014 Spring Semester: Tuesday, March 4, 2014. After the course withdrawal deadline, courses dropped will be recorded on University records and the W grade will be recorded if the student is not failing the course at the time of withdrawal; otherwise the grade recorded will be F. After the course withdrawal deadline, a student may drop a course only in cases of extreme and unavoidable emergency as determined by the academic dean; dropping a course after the deadline will not be permitted because of dissatisfaction over an expected grade or because the student is changing his or her major.

ACADEMIC NEEDS: It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128). Contact will then be made by that office through the student to the instructor of this class. The instructor will then be happy to work with the student so that a reasonable accommodation of any disability can be made.

SPECIAL DATES:

Spring Break: Monday, March 10 - Friday, March 14 Withdraw deadline: Tuesday, March 4, 2014 Good Friday: April 18, 2014 Classes end: Friday, May 2, 2014

THE FINAL EXAM will be comprehensive.