

Applied and industrial algebra (Math 127), Fall 2024
San José State University
MacQuarrie Hall 233, MW 10:30–11:45am (Sec. 01, code 45152)

Instructor: Dr. Tim Hsu (pronounced “shoe”).

Office and phone: MacQuarrie Hall 316, (408)924-5071.

Office hours: MW 9:30–10:20am and 1:30–2:30pm, mostly in the math help room (MH426).

E-mail: tim.hsu@sjsu.edu. I can be reached by e-mail at many times of the day, and will try to respond within 24 hours.

Course web page: <http://www.timhsu.net/courses/127/>

Text: Course notes available online.

Grading: Homework 20%; Exam 1 14%; Exams 2 and 3 18% each; Final exam 30%.

Goals of this course. In this course, we define applied math to be math that you can use to make money in the real world (e.g., in the tech industry). Specifically, our choice of topics is aimed at teaching you ideas that you can go out and use in industry.

So in contrast with Math 128A, which teaches you to do proofs in abstract algebra, the goal of this class is to teach you enough of the ideas of abstract algebra to be able to understand practical applications like encryption, error-correcting communication, and the Fast Fourier Transform. In short, the goal is for you not to become a *producer* of abstract algebra (i.e., someone who does proofs and comes up with new theorems), but an *enlightened consumer* of abstract algebra: someone who can use the tools of abstract algebra for practical purposes without having to treat them as a black box.

No proof or abstract algebra experience is expected. While the homework will occasionally involve proof, and will deal with abstract algebra, you do not need to have experience with either proofs or abstract algebra, and Math 108 and Math 128A are not prerequisites. (Of course, I hope you will then go on to take Math 108 and Math 128A, to become an even more enlightened consumer, or even a producer, of algebra.)

This class will be run in a flipped format. That means you’ll watch the lectures for a particular day’s topic before class and then spend class time discussing concepts and working on problems, both with my help/personal attention and working with others in the class. Perhaps most importantly, class will sometimes be spent working on our quite considerable homework assignments. See the handout on “Daily workflow” for more details.

Homework. Homework will be due roughly once a week, with an outline of problem set 01 due **Wed Aug 28**, and the final version due **Wed Sep 04**. For more details on homework content and the process of doing homework, see the handout on homework.

Specific homework assignments will be determined as the term progresses. For a complete list of all homework assigned to date, and downloadable versions of almost all handouts from class, you can always check the course web page.

Problem sessions. In addition to my regular office hours, starting on **Fri Aug 30**, I will also hold problem sessions for this class every **Fri**, from **12:30–2:30pm** online. These sessions are completely optional, and you should be fine without them, but the time is available for those who can make it.

Checkins. Because we only meet two days each week, it is *crucial* that you do substantial work in the long gap between Wed and Mon. To that end, I will require you to “check in” with me each week in that time period. See the handout on check-ins for more details.

Exams. We will discuss this topic in more detail before the first exam, but briefly, the material on exams will mostly resemble the material from the homework. All exams are closed-book.

Calculators. You will *not* be allowed to use calculators for *any* in-class exams. The numerical work on exams will be simple enough that a calculator shouldn’t be necessary, and even if you make numerical mistakes, you won’t lose a lot of points on them.

On the other hand, you are encouraged to use a calculator or computer to help with the homework, especially when the homework involves a fair amount of arithmetic.

Exam dates. The dates of our three in-class exams and final exam are found on the syllabus below. In particular, the final exam will be held on **Thu Dec 12**, from **9:45am–noon**. Please make sure that you are still on campus at that time (e.g., don't buy a plane ticket that leaves town on Dec 11).

How to add this course. If you are not registered for this course, and you would like to add it, you must first put a full effort into completing all of the work in the course. Second, if you are a graduating senior, you need to produce documentation to verify that.

I'll make a waiting list, which you get on by filling out and turning in the information form for the course. I'll give out add codes starting one week before **Tue Sep 17**, mainly based on completeness of homework, and as long as there is room, I will continue to give out add codes until add/drop date (**Tue Sep 17**). Note, however, that graduating seniors have the highest priority, and that Open University students have the lowest priority.

How to drop this course. Until **Tue Sep 17**, you can drop at my.sjsu.edu. Nothing will appear on your transcript, but please let me know if you drop.

To drop after Tue Sep 17, you must go to the student services center and submit a Course Drop form to the Director of Academic Services. Dropping under these circumstances is only allowed for “serious and compelling reasons” (course catalog). A low grade is not a serious and compelling reason.

Academic integrity. Your commitment to learning (as shown by your enrollment at SJSU) and SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy require you to be honest in all of your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. See: www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct

Disabilities. If you need course adaptations or accommodations due to a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Accessible Education Center (formerly the Disability Resources Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
Wed Aug 21	2.1–2.2	Mon Oct 21	Exam 2
Mon Aug 26	2.3–2.4	Wed Oct 23	7.3
Wed Aug 28	2.5–2.6	Mon Oct 28	7.4–7.5
Mon Sep 02	Labor Day	Wed Oct 30	7.6
Wed Sep 04	3.1	Mon Nov 04	7.7, 8.2
Mon Sep 09	3.2–3.3	Wed Nov 06	8.3–8.4
Wed Sep 11	3.4–3.5	Mon Nov 11	Veteran's Day
Mon Sep 16	3.6, 4.1	Wed Nov 13	8.4–8.5
Wed Sep 18	4.2, review	Mon Nov 18	9.2–9.4
Mon Sep 23	Exam 1	Wed Nov 20	9.4–9.5
Wed Sep 25	5.2–5.3	Mon Nov 25	Exam 3
Mon Sep 30	5.4–5.5	Wed Nov 27	Thanksgiving Break
Wed Oct 02	5.5	Mon Dec 02	10.1, 10.3
Mon Oct 07	5.6, 6.1	Wed Dec 04	FFT
Wed Oct 09	6.2–6.3	Mon Dec 09	FFT
Mon Oct 14	6.4	Thu Dec 12	FINAL EXAM
Wed Oct 16	7.1–7.2		9:45am–noon