

**Check-ins**  
**Math 128A, Fall 2020**

Because we only meet for two days each week, and because there is such a large gap between Wednesday and the following Monday, it is absolutely *essential* that you do significant independent work all week, and not forget about the class over the weekend. For that reason, I am requiring you to “check in” at various times this semester, for credit. To be precise:

- (5 points) The required text for this class is *Contemporary Abstract Algebra*, Gallian (9th ed., 2017, 5-leaf clover cover). Please provide some proof that you have the book (e.g., picture of the physical book or screenshot of the PDF) by **Mon Aug 31**. In other words, you must buy or rent the text **immediately**, no exceptions.
- (1 point each week) For the rest of the semester, every Fri, starting **Fri Aug 21**, you will be required either to ask a nontrivial question about the homework that has been assigned, either on the class Piazza page or by email, or attend our problem session (**Fri 10:00-noon** on Zoom). By “nontrivial,” I mean that you need to have put in enough effort to get to a point where you realize what it is that you don’t understand. For example, “I don’t get problem 12” is not good enough, but “I don’t get problem 12 because I don’t understand assumptions and conclusions” or “I don’t get problem 12 because I don’t understand how to use the bracket-slash-bracket thing” or “I don’t get problem 12 because I don’t understand how to use the union of two sets” are all good. Alternately, if you think you have the HW in good shape, pick one problem and send me an email describing your solution.

After I get your check-in emails, I will try to send out a mass email response giving hints on the HW that answer your most frequently asked questions. If you are having a lot of problems, I may answer you individually. (You are also free to ask as many questions as you like!)