18.900 FALL 2019: COURSE INFORMATION

Webpages: For basic information, and links to the piazza forum and lecture videos, see http://math.mit.edu/18.900/. For psets, lecture notes, announcements, and grades, see the Stellar/LMOD page, https://learning-modules.mit.edu/class/index.html?uuid=/course/18/fa19/18.900#info. If the Stellar/LMOD site looks empty to you, you need to log in (top right corner).

Lectures: MWF 9am, 2-131. Attendance is not mandatory, but strongly recommended.

Office hour: Time: Wednesdays, 10-11 and 3-4, but may vary some weeks because of other commitments. Check the announcement section on the Stellar/LMOD page for changes. Location: 2-276.

Homework: There will be weekly homework; the first is due 9/13, 9:05am. Psets can be obtained from the Stellar/LMOD site, under “Gradebook”. Homework can only be submitted in one of the two ways: in the box set up for that purpose outside 4-174; or, in class. Online or email submission is not allowed. If your homework is not stapled, we don’t guarantee that it will all stay together or get graded.

No late submissions are allowed. If you need to be excused from one of the problem sets, explain your situation and ask: you need to do that no later than two weeks after the homework was due.

Exams: There will be two in-class midterm exams: Monday October 7; and Friday November 15. There will be a one-hour final Wednesday December 18, in the morning (exact time TBA). The final exam is not cumulative: it only covers the material after the last midterm. The classes before each midterm, and the last class before the final, will be review sessions, run recitation-style.

You can not take the midterms at any other time (except for official conflict finals). If you need to be excused from one of the midterms, explain your situation and ask: you need to do that no later than two weeks after the midterm date. Missing the final, or taking a conflict final (allowed only if you have another final at the same time), is governed by MIT regulations.

Grading: Homework 60%, Exams 40% (each midterm 1/3, final 1/3). There will be no rounding, dropping worst score, “curving”, or other statistical manipulations. Excused assignments will be replaced with the point-weighted average of your other assignments of the same kind.

Date: This version: September 25, 2019.
Material: The course will approximately follow this plan:

- Polygonal curves (5 lectures)
- Billiards (4 lectures)
- Plane curves (4 lectures) – first midterm – Immersed curves (4 lectures)
- Algebraic curves (7 lectures) – second midterm
- Complexes, Betti numbers (4 lectures)
- Hyperbolic geometry (3 lectures) – Curved geometries (3 lectures) – exam

Total: 34 lectures + 3 review sessions + 2 midterms + 1 exam. Of course, adjustments are possible as we proceed.