



Course information 2011–12

MT2116 Abstract mathematics

This course is an introduction to formal mathematical reasoning, in which proof is central. It introduces fundamental concepts and constructions of mathematics and looks at how to formulate mathematical statements in precise terms. It then shows how such statements they can be proved or disproved. It provide students with the skills required for more advanced courses in mathematics.

Prerequisite

If taken as part of a BSc degree, courses which must be passed before this course may be attempted:

MT1174 Calculus *or*
MT105a Mathematics 1 *and* MT105b Mathematics 2.

Exclusion

May not be taken with MT3095 Further mathematics for economists.

Aims and objectives

This course is designed to enable students to:

- develop their ability to think in a critical manner
- formulate and develop mathematical arguments in a logical manner
- improve their skill in acquiring new understanding and expertise
- acquire an understanding of basic pure mathematics and the role of logical argument in mathematics.

Essential reading

For full details, please refer to the reading list

Biggs, Norman L. *Discrete Mathematics*. (Oxford: Clarendon Press)

Eccles, P.J. *An Introduction to Mathematical Reasoning; numbers, sets and functions*. (Cambridge University Press)

Bryant, Victor. *Yet Another Introduction to Analysis*. (Cambridge University Press)

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course and having completed the essential reading and activities students should:

- ✓ have used basic mathematical concepts in discrete mathematics, algebra and real analysis to solve mathematical problems in this subject.
- ✓ be able to use formal notation correctly and in connection with precise statements in English.
- ✓ be able to demonstrate an understanding of the underlying principle of the subjects.
- ✓ be able to solve unseen mathematical problems in discrete mathematics, algebra and real analysis.
- ✓ be able to prove statements and formulate precise mathematical arguments..

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three hour unseen written examination.

Students should consult the *Programme Regulations for degrees and diplomas in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences* that are reviewed annually. The Prerequisites, Exclusions, and Syllabus are subject to confirmation in the *Regulations*. Notice

Syllabus

This is a description of the material to be examined, as published in the *Regulations*. On registration, students will receive a detailed subject guide which provides a framework for covering the topics in the syllabus and directions to the essential reading.

This course is an introduction to mathematical reasoning. Students are introduced to the fundamental concepts and constructions of mathematics. They are taught how to formulate mathematical statements in precise terms, and how such statements can be proved or disproved.

The course is designed to enable students to:

- develop their ability to think in a critical manner
- formulate and develop mathematical arguments in a logical manner

- improve their skill in acquiring new understanding and expertise
- acquire an understanding of basic pure mathematics, and the role of logical argument in mathematics.

Topics covered are: Logic, integers, sets and functions, prime numbers, relations, real and complex numbers, greatest common divisor and modular arithmetic, infimum and supremum, sequences, limits of sequences, functions and limits of functions, continuity, groups.