Instructions for homework  
Math 457, Spring 2014

Dr. Jason Rute

I require that your homework be professional and well-presented. Failure to do so will result in lost points, or even having the homework returned ungraded (in extreme cases).

1. On the top of the homework, put your name, “Math 457”, and “Homework #N” (where N is the homework number).

2. Before submitting your homework, remove all perforations, check that the pages are assembled in order, and staple them together (if more than one sheet of paper).

3. For each exercise, write the exercise number, the page number (since there are many “Exercise 1”s in the book), and the problem statement. This will make it easier for me to grade and for you to reference your homework.

4. For each exercise, list any collaborators with whom you talked about the exercise. (There is no penalty for working with others.) Also, cite any resources you used (besides your course notes and the book). The following two resources are never acceptable: solutions to the problems (this includes the write-ups of other students) and asking about the problem on an Internet forum (instead, ask your instructor or classmates!).

5. When writing proofs, write legibly and write in complete sentences (either English sentences or mathematical sentences). Do not use excessive abbreviations or symbols, nor write long paragraphs with little content. Do not include scratch work.

6. When writing proofs, be clear, explain your reasoning. Do not skip steps. Avoid unnecessary steps. (Write your proof as if a hypothetical B+ level classmate were the intended reader.)

7. Assemble the problems in order. If an exercise appears out of order, make that clear.

8. There will be a few exercises that basically say “write down the proof of Theorem X”. Take these types of problems seriously (some of
these will be on the exam). Do not try to remember the proof word-for-word. (This is plagiarism, even if it is from memory. It is also likely that you will get the proof wrong!) Instead, write the theorem statement without looking at the proof. Then attempt to prove it based on how your remember the proof going. If you get stuck, look at the proof and try again.

9. **If you need an extension, ask for one.** I would rather the homework be late and correct, then on time and wrong. However, **you must ask** to be granted an extension.