

# SYLLABUS: MATH 788F

## The Theory of Irreducible Polynomials

1:25 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. on MWF

**Instructor:** Michael Filaseta

**Office:** 301 LeConte

**Email:** filaseta@mailbox.sc.edu (encouraged to use)

**Office Phone Number:** 777-6589

**Office Hours:** 9:45-10:45 a.m. on MWF and by appointment  
(avoid coming by my office the half-hour before class)

**Text Book:** None (see notes on web page; password will be given during class)

**Web Page for Course:**

<http://www.math.sc.edu/~filaseta/gradcourses/Math788F/Math788F.html>

**Grading:** Homework (50%)  
1 Test (20% each)  
Cumulative Final (30%)

**Date & Time of Final Exam:** Saturday, December 12, 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.  
(No exceptions can be made to the scheduled time.)

**Note:** The last day to drop the class without a WF being recorded is Thursday, October 1.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Please remember to turn off your cell phone prior to class.

**Attendance Policy:** It is not intended that you take advantage of the fact that class notes are available and miss lectures. You are expected to attend each lecture. You will be considered absent if you miss more than ten minutes of a lecture. If you are absent for more than four lectures, your letter grade at the end of the course will be one-half of a letter grade lower than the grade determined from the homework, test, and final exam. If you are absent for more than eight lectures, you should withdraw from the course; if you do not, your letter grade at the end of the course will be one full letter grade lower than the grade determined from the homework, test, and final exam.

**Homework Policy:** Homework assignments must be turned in on time. Late homework will not be accepted. Although you are encouraged to work on homework together, you are to write up your homework solutions independently and without the aid of other people's written solutions to the problems.

**Learning Outcomes:** This course, like other courses at a serious university, will help students determine whether they are able or truly want to pursue a career that involves the topics covered. With this in mind, there are three possibilities: (i) Students will master concepts and be able to solve problems associated with irreducibility criteria, the use of Newton polygons, cyclotomic polynomials, and the irreducibility of classical polynomials. (ii) Students will discover that they cannot or do not want to master these concepts. (iii) Some combination of (i) and (ii).