

Math 4152A/9052A Course Outline

1. Course Information

Course Information

Course code and title: MATH 4152A/9052B Algebraic Topology.

Lectures:

Office hours:

List of Prerequisites

Group Theory (Math 3120) and General Topology (Math 3132 or Math 4121).

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean's Designate (Department/Program Counsellors and Science Academic Advisors) to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Chris Kapulkin	kkapulki@uwo.ca		None	
TA TBA	TBA	TBA	None	None

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Course contents

Homotopy, fundamental group, Van Kampen's theorem, covering spaces, simplicial and singular homology, homotopy invariance, long exact sequence of a pair, excision, Mayer-Vietoris sequence, degree, Euler characteristic, cell complexes, projective spaces. Applications include the fundamental theorem of algebra, the Brouwer fixed point theorem, division algebras, and invariance of domain.

Course learning outcomes

- Students will be able to construct CW-decomposition of familiar spaces.
- Students will be able to compute the fundamental group of CW complexes and other simple spaces.
- Students will be able to compute homology groups of CW complexes and other simple spaces.
- Students will be able to derive properties of singular homology from the axioms.

- Students will be able to apply the techniques of algebraic topology to problems from other areas of mathematics, e.g., algebra.
- Students will be able to express key constructions of algebraic topology in the language of category theory.

Key sessional dates

Classes begin: January 6, 2025

Spring Reading Week: February 15 – 23, 2025 (not exactly ‘spring’ in Canada, am I right?)

Classes end: April 4, 2025

Exam period: April 7 – 30, 2025

4. Course Materials

- **Recommended textbook:** A. Hatcher, *Algebraic Topology*, Cambridge University Press, 2002. **The textbook costs \$0.00** – it is freely available at: <https://pi.math.cornell.edu/~hatcher/AT/ATpage.html>.
- **Second recommended textbook:** J. P. May, *A Concise Course in Algebraic Topology*, University of Chicago Press, 1999. **The textbook costs \$0.00** – it is freely available at: <https://www.math.uchicago.edu/~may/CONCISE/ConciseRevised.pdf>.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Assignments (10)	50%
Midterm Test	25%
Final Exam	25%

Assignments (50%)

There will be ten assignments. Each assignment will be posted on Thursday after class and will be due on Tuesday before class the following week. The lowest assignment grade will be dropped and the best assignment grade will be counted twice. The assignment due dates are as follows:

[REDACTED]

Midterm Test (25%)

There will be a one-hour midterm test, worth 25% of the final grade, held in class on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Interpretive Dance (0%)

Students are discouraged from engaging in interpretive dance during class time. Any achievements therein will not contribute to the final course grade.

Final Exam (25%)

The non-cumulative one-hour Final Exam will be scheduled by the Office of Registrar during the Exam Period.

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All Academic Consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (defined by policy).
- The midterm test (designated by the instructor as the one assessment that always requires documentation when requesting Academic Consideration).

When a student *mistakenly* submits their one allowed Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** for the assessments listed above or those in the **Coursework with Assessment Flexibility** section below, the request cannot be recalled and reapplied. This privilege is forfeited.

Evaluation Scheme for Missed Assessments

Every assignment has an automatic 72-hour extension (with full credit); no documentation required. The make-up dates for midterms will be arranged with students who have received an accommodation.

When a student misses the Final Exam and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

Coursework with Assessment Flexibility

By policy, instructors may deny Academic Consideration requests for the following assessments with built-in flexibility:

Flexible Completion

Assignments. This course has 10 assignments, and the 9 assignments with the highest marks are counted towards your final grade. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students do not need to request Academic Consideration for the first missed quiz. Academic consideration requests will be denied for the first missed quiz.

Deadline with a No-Late-Penalty Period

Assignments. Students are expected to submit each of the 10 assignments by the deadline listed. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students do not need to request Academic Consideration and they are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 past the deadline, a late penalty of 100% per day will be applied. Academic Consideration requests may be granted only for extenuating circumstances that started before the deadline and lasted longer than the No-Late-Penalty Period (72 hours).

6. Additional Statements

Religious Accommodation

When conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible but not later than two weeks prior to the writing or the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays:

<https://www.edi.uwo.ca>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

No electronic devices will be allowed during the midterm test and the final exam.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic-related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.