Time: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00–11:50
Room: TBA
Instructor: Daniel Ruberman
Room 310
736–3074
e-mail: ruberman@brandeis.edu

Office hours for first week Wednesday, 2-4, and by appointment.

Course resources may be found on [LATTE].

Prerequisite: MATH 104a or permission of the instructor.

Grading: Grades will be based on the following.
- Homework 70%
- Final Exam 30%

Homework policy: The goal of homework is to help you absorb the concepts discussed in class and to improve your problem solving skills. You may discuss homework problems with other students in the class. However, I highly recommend that you spend time thinking about the problems on your own before discussing them with others, and I strongly advise against searching for solutions on the web. Struggling with a problem is not a waste of time; it is the best way to improve your understanding of the material! If you are stuck on a problem, I would be happy to offer hints.

Most important, once you have a solution, write it down in your own words. You may not copy the written work of another student or from any other source such as the internet, nor should you allow another student to copy your written work. What you submit should be written in your own words and reflect your own understanding of the ideas.


Learning Goals: This course is an introduction to algebraic topology. We will cover the material in Chapters 1 and 2 of Hatcher’s book, including fundamental groups, covering spaces, and homology theory. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with basic concepts, terminology, and techniques in algebraic topology. Students will get experience using a combination of geometric and algebraic arguments to establish topological properties of spaces.

Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week). Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).
If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please contact me and present your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, you should contact Academic Services (x6-3470.) Letters of accommodation should be presented at the start of the semester to ensure provision of accommodations. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.

You are expected to follow the University's policy on academic integrity, which is distributed annually as section 4 of the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (see http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/srcs/rr/index.html). Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Student Development and Conduct for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about how these policies apply to your conduct in this course, please ask.