Math 507: Functional Analysis (Spring, 2004)

How to get an A in this course

I’ll try to hand out problem sets frequently. Feel free to discuss problem solutions with each other and with me. I may give hints. I hope to know how to solve the problems I assign. If I can’t finish a proof in class or if I make substantial mistakes trying to prove something in class, doing the proof correctly will also be a homework problem. Also there may be times when I don’t verify a complicated example correctly and completely, producing another homework problem for you.*

You will need to do all of the following:

i) Present the solution to one problem orally in class during the first half of the semester.

ii) Present the solution to one problem orally in class during the second half of the semester.

The problems presented at the board shouldn’t be too “stale” – it would be nice if they were presented within a few weeks of their being handed out. Please send me e-mail or talk to me in advance if you wish to present a problem solution. Problem solutions shouldn’t take too long: perhaps 10 minutes. If necessary, only an outline of the solution can be presented. The first person who tells me that they want to present a problem solution “owns” that problem, and other people will need to present solutions of other problems.

iii) Hand in written solutions to two problems per week.

Problems which have been previously presented orally are not eligible for subsequent submission in written form, except that a person who presents a problem orally may hand in a written solution to the problem. I’d like written homework solutions in a timely fashion.

* So there will be no errors, only opportunities! “It’s not a bug, it’s a feature!”