

Math 18.704: Seminar in Algebra and Number Theory

Giving Lectures

1. HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

1. You will be assigned a section or a portion of a section of the book on which to base your lecture. Well in advance of when you are to give your lecture, read the assigned section and make sure you understand it. If you have any questions about the math, ask me.

2. Write down a lecture plan. Try not to repeat what is in the book verbatim. There are various things you can do to vary things: give different examples from the book; if they prove only certain cases of a theorem, you can prove other cases; etc. I'll be happy to offer explicit suggestions regarding what exactly to cover. Then practice your lecture on your own. Make sure it is about the right length.

3. Make an appointment to come see me no later than the day *before* your lecture. In my office you will deliver your lecture (or a portion of it) to me, and I'll give you advice. If there is anything in the lecture plan that needs adjusting, you'll have time to do it before your lecture.

4. Right after your lecture we can talk briefly about how it went, or I can send you a few e-mail comments if there's anything I'd like you to think about for the next time.

2. OTHER ADVICE

1. I expect you to take the process of preparing for and giving your presentation seriously. That said, I am not expecting anyone to give perfect presentations (is there such a thing?) at the beginning of (or even by the end of) the course. Just work at it and do your best.

2. Once you have done all of your preparation and are finally giving your lecture, just try to relax. Your fellow students and myself are there to support you. Nervousness is natural. Just remember your main goal is to communicate something interesting to others.

3. We will talk about more specific things like board work, tone of voice, etc. in our one-on-one meetings.