



浙江大學

MATH526

**Geometry of Transformations and
Topological Structures**

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Geometry of Transformations and Topological Structures

Instructor Contact Details

Lecturer-in-charge: Feng WANG

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Office location: Huajiachi Campus, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China

Consultation Time: Book appointment by sending email to: wlwyxy_29@zju.edu.cn

Teaching Times, Modes and Locations

Course Duration: 11 Jan 2026 to 30 Jan 2026

Modes: Face-to-face

Location: Huajiachi Campus, Zhejiang University via face-to-face

Academic Level

Undergraduate

Credit Points:

The course is worth 6 units of credit point.

Credit Hours

The number of credit hours of this course equals to the credits of a standard semester- long course.

Contact Hours

The course contains a total of 53 contact hours, which consists of orientation, lectures, seminars, quiz, discussion, research, case study, small tests, assignments, on-site field trip(s), in-class and after-class activities, revision, self-study, and final exam. Students will receive an official transcript which is issued by Zhejiang University when completing this course.

Enrolment Requirements

Eligibility requires enrollment in an overseas university as an undergraduate or postgraduate student, proficiency in English, and pre-approval from the student's home institution.

Course Description:

This course develops visual and geometric modes of thinking through the study of geometry and topology. The geometry component focuses on transformations of the Euclidean plane, including isometries, symmetries, and affine transformations, with an emphasis on their classification and connection to linear algebra. Topics also include projective geometry, covering collineations and their action on conics. The topology component introduces fundamental ideas such as homeomorphism, subdivision, and the Euler characteristic through the study of graphs, surfaces, and knots. Students will explore the classification of surfaces, map colouring, and knot invariants, gaining tools applicable to mathematics, science, and engineering.

Prerequisite:

N/A

Learning Resources

- W.P. Thurston, The Geometry and Topology of Three-Manifolds, Princeton University, 1979.
- D.W. Blackett, Elementary Topology: A Combinatorial and Algebraic Approach, Academic Press, 1982.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify and analyse isometries, affine transformations, and collineations, and describe their key properties and relationships.
- Apply vector, matrix, and homogeneous coordinate methods to solve problems in the Euclidean and real projective planes.
- Classify and construct geometric transformations, including decompositions into reflections and mappings between geometric figures.
- Recognise and perform topological operations on graphs, surfaces, and knots, and represent surfaces in standard forms.
- Solve classification problems in surface topology and apply concepts to map colouring and polygonal decompositions.
- Use basic knot theory techniques, including Reidemeister moves and invariants, to distinguish between knots.

Course Delivery:

- Face-to-face Lecture mode includes lectures, seminars, quiz, discussion, research, case study, small tests, assignments, on-site field trip(s), in-class and after-class activities, revision, and final exam.

The following course will be taught in English. There will also be guest speakers and optional field trips available for students who would like to enhance their learning experience. All courses and other sessions will be run during weekdays.

Topics and Course Schedule:

WK Topic Activities		
1	Introduction; review of linear algebra; the Euclidean plane and coordinate systems	Lecture; Tutorial
1	Transformations of the plane: isometries, translations, and reflections	Lecture; Tutorial
1	Fixed points, rotations, glide-reflections, and classification of isometries	Lecture; Tutorial
1	Conjugation, parity, and introduction to affine transformations	Lecture; Tutorial
1	Derivatives of transformations; introduction to the real projective plane	Lecture; Tutorial
2	Collineations in the projective plane and mappings between conics L	Lecture; Tutorial
2	In-class Test	Closed book
2	Introduction to topology: graphs, subdivisions, trees, and Eulerian circuits	Lecture; Tutorial
2	Surfaces: disc, annulus, torus, Möbius band, Klein bottle, sphere, and projective planes; homeomorphisms and stereographic projection; triangulated surfaces and Euler characteristic	Lecture; Tutorial
2	Subdivision invariance, cutting and pasting, boundaries, orientation, and edge equations	Lecture; Tutorial
3	Classification of surfaces: genus, oriented closed surfaces, handles, and crosscaps; Platonic solids	Lecture; Tutorial
3	Graphs on surfaces and planarity; map colouring theorems and estimates	Lecture; Tutorial
3	Introduction to knot theory: polygonal knots, diagrams, unknot, trefoil, figure-eight knots, colouring, determinants, Seifert surfaces	Lecture; Tutorial

3	Review and advanced problem-solving workshop	Lecture; Tutorial
3	Revision	Tutorial
	Final exam	Closed book

Assessments:

Class participation	15%
In-class Test	15%
Assignments	20%
Final exam	50%

Grade Descriptors:

HD	High Distinction	85-100
D	Distinction	75-84
Cr	Credit	65-74
P	Pass	50-64
F	Fail	0-49

High Distinction 85-100

- Treatment of material evidences an advanced synthesis of ideas Demonstration of initiative, complex understanding, and analysis.
- Work is well-written and stylistically sophisticated, including appropriate referencing, clarity, and some creativity where appropriate.
- All criteria addressed to a high level.

Distinction 75-84

- Treatment of material evidences an advanced understanding of ideas Demonstration of initiative, complex understanding and analysis Work is well-written and stylistically strong.
- All criteria addressed strongly.

Credit 65-74

- Treatment of material displays a good understanding of ideas
- Work is well-written and stylistically sound, with a minimum of syntactical errors.
- All criteria addressed clearly.

Pass 50-64

- Treatment of material indicates a satisfactory understanding of ideas Work is adequately written, with some syntactical errors.
- Most criteria addressed adequately.

Fail 0-49

- Treatment of ideas indicates an inadequate understanding of ideas Written style inappropriate to task, major problems with expression.
- Most criteria not clearly or adequately addressed.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the university's academic honesty principles which are an integral part of the university's core values and principles. If a student fails to observe the acceptable standards of academic honesty, they could attract penalties and even disqualification from the course in more serious circumstances. Students are responsible for knowing and observing accepted principles of research, writing and any other task which they are required to complete.

Academic dishonesty or cheating includes acts of plagiarism, misrepresentation, fabrication, failure to reference materials used properly and forgery. These may include, but are not limited to: claiming the work of others as your own, deliberately applying false and inaccurate information, copying the work of others in part or whole, allowing others in the course to copy your work in part or whole, failing to appropriately acknowledge the work of other scholars/authors through acceptable referencing standards, purchasing papers or writing papers for other students and submitting the same paper twice for the same subject.

This Academic Integrity policy applies to all students of the Zhejiang University in all programs of study, including non-graduating students. It is to reinforce the University's commitment to maintain integrity and honesty in all academic activities of the University community.

Policy

The foundation of good academic work is honesty. Maintaining academic integrity upholds the standards of the University. The responsibility for maintaining integrity in all the activities of the academic community lies with the students as well as the faculty and the University. Everyone in this community must work together to ensure that the values of truth, trust and justice are upheld.

Academic dishonesty affects the University's reputation and devalues the degrees offered. The University will impose serious penalties on students who are found to have violated this policy. The following penalties may be imposed:

- ✓ Expulsion
- ✓ Suspension
- ✓ Zero mark /fail grade
- ✓ Marking down
- ✓ Re-doing/re-submitting of assignments or reports, and
- ✓ Verbal or written warning.