

Math 125 - Beginning Algebra

Spring 2010

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Office Hours: M-Th : 8:35 – 9:35a.m., M: 12:10 - 1:40 p.m.

Course Description: Topics to be covered include: Basic operations with integers, polynomials, algebraic fractions and irrational expressions; solution and graphing of linear and quadratic equations and functions.

Prerequisites: *Success* in this course is highly dependent on three factors: the amount of *effort* you put forth, your *attitude* and your level of *preparation* upon entering the class. Because of this, the prerequisites are strictly adhered to. They are: Minimum grade of C in Math 401C or 402 or satisfactory score on the placement test. Petitions are required (and seldom granted) to enroll in this course for a third time.

Text: Lial & Hornsby, Beginning Algebra, 10th edition. MATHXL is bundled with the text. If you bought your text used, you will need to also purchase MATHXL. <http://www.mathxl.com/login.htm>

Attendance: Daily attendance is required. Excessive absences or tardiness may affect course grade. Ten hours of absence constitutes basis for dismissal from the course. Students missing class are responsible for finding out what they missed and what is due. I suggest you get contact information from a few classmates.

Grading : Grades will be determined based on the following percentages:

Homework	10 %
Tests	60 %
Final exam	30 %.

Letter grades will be given based on the following percentages

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
below	F

Homework: Homework will be assigned daily and will consist of a combination of written homework and MathXL problems to be done on the computer. The way to succeed on the homework portion of your grade (as well as in the class itself) is to do your homework neatly, completely, and consistently. Please note: no late homework will be accepted, even if you are absent. If you know you are going to be absent, you may turn in your assignment early or have a friend turn it in.

Exams: If you know ahead of time that you will be absent on the day of an exam, it is sometimes possible to arrange to take it early, but NO make-up exams will be given.

- An exam will be given at the end of most chapters. It will cover the chapter plus specifically noted material from previous chapters.
- The lowest exam score will be dropped. If you miss an exam, that will be the score that is dropped.
- A final exam will be given. This exam will be two hours long and will cover ALL course material.

Calculator Usage: Calculators will not be used in this course. The more you practice computations without your calculator, the less dependent you will be on it.

Where to get HELP

There are SO many FREE opportunities for you to get help if you make the EFFORT. Take responsibility for your learning and seek assistance if needed. It is very important to request help as soon as difficulties arise. If you wait a week before getting help on a concept, you may be too far behind to recover. Here are some of your options:

- My office hour. Office hours are a great time to get individualized help. It would be helpful if when you come to my office you are organized and prepared with *specific* questions. The office hour is also a good time to discuss your concerns regarding the course and your performance. Again, come as soon as concerns arise. Unfortunately it is not possible for me to repeat entire lectures, teach lacking prerequisite skills or provide daily personal tutoring during this time.
- Tutoring. The college offers quite a bit of free tutoring. More information will be made available in the first few weeks of class. Students needing more individualized help should seek private tutoring.
- Study Groups. Forming study groups with classmates is one of the BEST ways to be more successful in this class.
- Videos, Cds, Websites. See the preface of the book for a complete list of ancillaries accompanying the book

Personal Conduct

Simply stated, this is a college class so it is expected that you act like a college student. You are expected to be actively involved in your education. This includes being alert in class and participating in class discussion. A good attitude on your part makes the class much more enjoyable. It is expected that you refrain from activities that could be distracting to your classmates or to me. This includes talking while someone else is talking, texting, falling asleep, doing homework, etc. Electronic devices such as ipods and phones should be turned off in class. Children or friends not enrolled in the class may not accompany you to class. Students caught cheating may be given an F in the course and reported to the Dean.

Important Dates:

March 31, April 19-25, May 31 - No school
May 14 - Last day to drop
Final Exam –
 MW Class Wednesday, June 16, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
 TTh Class Thursday, June 17, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- I. Simplify expressions involving real numbers, at the beginning algebra level.
 - a. Simplify numerical expressions using the order of operations.
 - b. Simplify expressions involving integer exponents.
 - c. Perform operations with polynomials.
 - d. Simplify rational expressions.
 - e. Simplify radical expressions.
- II. Factor polynomials, at the beginning algebra level.
 - a. Factor out the GCF.
 - b. Factor trinomials.
 - c. Factor a difference of two squares.
 - d. Factor by grouping pairs.
- III. Solve equations in one variable, at the beginning algebra level.
 - a. Solve linear equations.
 - b. Solve linear inequalities.
 - c. Solve quadratic equations.
 - d. Solve rational equations.
 - e. Solve square root equations.
- IV. Graph, solve, and interpret linear equations.
 - a. Graph linear equations in two variables.
 - b. Graph linear inequalities in two variables.
 - c. Find equations of lines given information about the slope and/or points on the line.
 - d. Solve systems of linear equations in two variables.
- V. Model and solve real world applications.
 - a. Solve applications involving linear equations in one and two variables.
 - b. Solve applications involving quadratic equations.
 - c. Solve applications involving systems of equations.
 - d. Solve applications involving the rational equations.