

MATH 51 – WINTER 2009

BEGINNING ALGEBRA

Instructor: Alina Birca
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Office: Building 40 – Room 128
Text: *Beginning Algebra* (10th edition) by Lial, Hornsby, and McGinnis
Section: TWTW # 121144: 11:20 am – 3:00 pm; # 121150: 3:10 – 6:50 pm 40 - 127

Course Objectives

This course provides experience with algebraic manipulations, allowing students to understand the real number system and the use of variable expressions and equations in problem solving, to formulate simple linear, fractional, and quadratic algebraic models and find their solutions. Experience with exponents, polynomials, and radicals is provided. Students will understand the Cartesian coordinate system and learn the connection between the solution of an equation with two variables and the graph of the equation. Students are expected to improve their ability to read and write in the language of mathematics. The above topics are necessary for success in the next course (Intermediate Algebra), and may apply to courses in chemistry, economics and other disciplines.

Methods of Instruction

This course will combine lecture, teamwork, and class discussion. Students will be required to do homework and examinations. They may also be asked to participate in in-class demonstrations and pass quizzes.

Attendance and Participation

Understanding math requires more than just reading a textbook. Listening and participating in the class activities are as important as solving problems. College policy requires that you attend every class meeting. Moreover, I do notice when you do not show up. If your grade is on a borderline, those with regular attendance are more likely to be on the higher side of the line. In addition, you miss the material from that day and that day's quiz. Do not be late to class. The homework is due at the beginning of the class. You may also miss the quiz if you are late. NOTE: You the student are responsible for dropping the course should you decide not to continue in it. If you stop attending and doing the work and you fail to drop, you will receive a failing grade in this course. **You may be dropped from this class if you miss class during the first 2 weeks of instruction.** Your seat will be given to a student who has been attending each day

Prerequisites

There is a prerequisite for this course (Math 50 – Pre-Algebra), and I expect that you demonstrate college arithmetic and pre-algebra skills. Students are expected to be proficient with the arithmetic of integers, fractions, decimals and percentages upon entering Math 51.

Study time & Extra help

You are expected to study two hours outside class for every hour in class. If you have trouble completing assignments or understanding the mathematics, get help as soon as you need it. Free tutorial services are available in the MARC (40 – 113).

Late Work

Be prepared with all assignments on the day they are due. As a rule, I do not accept late written work nor are there any make up tests.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. There will be a zero on the assignment and risk failing the course.

NO CALCULATOR is allowed in this class (with a few exception which will be announced)

If you have a phone or pager, please turn it to vibrate and sit close to the door in case you need to use it in an emergency. Thank you.

Organization, Grading and Requirements

You will need a 3-hole binder with 3 separators, labeled as follows:

LECTURES

HOMEWORK

TESTS & QUIZZES

- **LECTURES** – Pay attention in class to what I say and do, and make careful notes. In particular, note the problems I work on the board, and copy the complete solutions as well as the theory presented in each section. Work as neatly as you can. Write your symbols clearly, and make sure the exercises are clearly separated from each other. Do not hesitate to ask questions in class. It is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. There are always other students with the same question who are too shy to ask.
- **HOMEWORK** – Before you start on homework assignments, rework the problems I worked in class as well as all examples from the textbook. This will reinforce what you have learned. Make sure you check your previous work against the solution sections posted on my website. Print out the solutions from my website for your reference.
- Keep all homework, quizzes and tests that are returned to you in your binder. Use them when you study for future tests and for the final exam.

Assignments in the course are divided into four areas and are worth a total of 1000 points. Those earning 900 points or more will be awarded an A, 800 to 899 points a B, 700 to 799 points a C, 600 to 699 points a D and less than 599 points an F.

Homework 150 points

Homework will be assigned every class session we cover new material and will be collected five times (see due dates on the Tentative Class Schedule). Homework is due at the beginning of the class. Read carefully all the directions from the homework handout. Late homework will not be accepted for any reason with the following exception: you are allowed ONE grace period until the next class period for ONE assignment. You get only one grace period – use it wisely! You are encouraged to discuss assignments with your classmates; however, you are required to write up your work independently. Copied homework will not be tolerated and identical, or nearly identical, assignments will share a single score. I will make every effort to address homework questions in class as time permits. Please feel free to come to my office or contact me by email if you need additional help.

Quizzes 240 points

Three quizzes will be given (see Tentative Class Schedule). They may be given at the beginning of class or at the end of the class! These quizzes will be given from exercises and examples done in class as well as homework problems assigned from the topics covered up to that point. For an exercise to be complete there needs to be a detailed solution to the problem. Do not just write down an answer. **No proof, no credit given!** Each quiz is worth 80 points.

Tests 330 points

Two tests will be given over the major areas addressed in the course. Each test is worth 165 points. For an exercise to be complete there needs to be a detailed solution to the problem. Do not just write down an answer. **No proof, no credit given!**

Comprehensive final 280 points

The final is a 2 ½ hour exam and it is held on **Thursday, February 12**. The final is a cumulative exam. You may use the final exam percent score to replace your lowest test score. However, a test with a score of zero cannot be replaced by the final score. You must take the final to pass this class.

Grade Sheet

Homework 1		
Homework 2	+	
Homework 3	+	
Homework 4		
Homework 5	+	
HOMEWORK	=	/ 150
Quiz 1		/80
Quiz 2	+	/80
Quiz 3	+	/80
QUIZZES	=	/240
Test 1		/165
Test 2		/165
TESTS	=	/330
FINAL EXAM	=	/280
TOTAL	=	/1000