MATH 51B – SUMMER 2006
BEGINNING ALGEBRA- Second Half

Instructor:	Alina Birca
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Office:	Building 40 – Room 415
Text:	*Beginning Algebra (*9th edition) by Lial, Hornsby, and McGinnis
Student Access Kit:	Recommended. It is available bundled with your textbook or as a standalone item. See more details on last page of the syllabus.
Section:	# 087603: TWTh 11:00am – 2:00 pm 40 - 127

Course Objectives
This course provides experience with solving quadratic equations by square root method, completing the square, and quadratic formula. Students will be able to understand the use of variable expressions and equations in problem solving, formulate simple linear, fractional, and quadratic algebraic models and find their solutions. Experience with 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, take quizzes and examinations. They may also be asked to participate in in-class demonstrations.

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. Any absence will adversely affect your class participation grade plus you will miss the material from that day and that day's quiz. Do not be late to class. Excessive tardiness will also affect your participation grade. 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 week 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 51A), and I expect that you demonstrate college arithmetic and pre-algebra skills as well as beginning algebra skills (properties of real numbers, polynomials, rational expressions, exponents, absolute value, factoring, evaluating algebraic expressions, and solving linear equations). Students are expected to be proficient with the arithmetic of integers, fractions, decimals and percentages.

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 MARC (building 40 – MTWTh 9:00 am – 7:00 pm).

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.
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 4 separators, labeled as follows:
- **LECTURES**
- **CONCEPTS**
- **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 problems are clearly separated from each other. Do not hesitate to ask questions in class (without interrupting me). 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.

- **CONCEPTS** – I want you to have a separate section in your binder where you will organize the main ideas and concepts, for your reference. I will assist you with this by providing various handouts to illustrate these concepts.

- **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. Do your homework assignment only after reading the text and reviewing your notes from class.

- Keep all 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 five 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.

Class Participation 35 points

Your class participation grade includes completion of class exercises and contribution to solving exercises as well as attendance and audience behavior. Everyone starts with 35 points but may lose some of the points as the semester goes on. Students who are absent will be automatically forfeit a percentage of their class participation grade equal to the percentage of classes absent.

Homework & Quizzes 200 points

Homework will be assigned every class session and is due the following day. Homework will not be graded. However, there will be a quiz every day (except when a test is scheduled). 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 20 points.

Tests 440 points

Four tests will be given over the major areas addressed in the course. Each test is worth 110 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!**

Skills Portfolio 75 points

You are required to purchase a large blue book (bookstore) for the purpose of keeping a skills portfolio for this course. Throughout the semester, I will assign you questions and exercises for you to complete associated with the major areas covered in the course.

Comprehensive final 250 points

The final is a 2 ½ hour exam and it is held on **Thursday, June 29** from **11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**
The final is a cumulative exam – Chapters 1 through 9. You may use the final exam percent score to replace your lowest test score. You must take the final to pass this class.