

Mrs. Lymeda Singleton  
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Texas A & M University - Commerce  
Math 350: Topics in Mathematics for  
Elementary Teachers I  
FALL 2012

Website: [www.tamu-commerce.edu/math/FACULTY/SINGLETON](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/math/FACULTY/SINGLETON) (case sensitive)

Tutorials: Mon / Wed before & after class, by appointment after 2 p.m., Tue / Thu 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

### Course Placement:

To be placed in this course, you should have passed Math 141 College Algebra with at least a C.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students who successfully complete this course should be able to develop the concepts taught in the elementary and middle school mathematics classroom: numeration, whole number, fraction, decimal, and integer representations and operations, and number theory.

**Class Format:** Class time will be spent in lecture, demonstrations, group activities, quizzes, and tests. Announcements, assignments, notes, and other important documents will be posted outside my office and / or Mrs. S's faculty website.

**Textbook:** *Learning Mathematics in Elementary and Middle Schools: A Lesson-Centered Approach*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition; by Cathcart, Pothier, Vance, and Bezuk, publ. Pearson, Merrill, Prentice Hall..

**Supplies:** calculator, notebook paper (8½ X 11 in., wide- or college-ruled, no spiral), **pencil, colored pencils** (no markers), scissors, tape, stapler. (All work must be completed in pencil or colored pencil.)

**Attendance:** Attendance is one of the keys to success in this course. Each class period will cover new material that is important, therefore, I will be checking attendance each class period. All students are expected to be present daily. If you miss a class, you are still expected to come to the next class period PREPARED. I will post a written copy of assignments outside my office door. I will try to send out any assignments via email when requested. **There are no "excused" or "unexcused" absences in this class**, although I do appreciate knowing why you missed if you feel you can share that with me. Please put it in writing.

If you represent TAMU-Commerce on an athletic team, ag team, band, choir, debate, or other group and must miss class, notify me in writing with the coach's / sponsor's signature one week before the anticipated absence in order to not be counted absent. Arrangements for make-up work will be made at that time.

If a student has no absences and less than three tardies per test unit, the student will receive 5 points extra credit on that major exam. If a student has no absences during the entire semester and fewer than 3 tardies, he / she will receive 5 points on the final exam. NOTE: 2 tardies during a test unit count as one absence, resulting in the loss of the extra credit points.

\*\*\*\*As future teachers, each student in this class should understand and appreciate that attendance has a great effect on performance. The state of Texas has a truancy policy for this reason. If a student misses 20% (6 absences) or more of this class, he / she will be considered "truant" and will not receive credit for this course. The highest grade assigned to any student who has been truant without documenting extenuating circumstances will be a D. \*\*\*\*

### **Grading Policy:**

**3 MAJOR TESTS 60%:** Problem Solving, Numeration & Whole Number and Integer Add & Subtract 20% (Wed/Thur, Sept 26/27), Whole Number and Integer Multiplication & Division and Number Theory 20% (Mon/Tues, Oct 22/23); Fraction & Decimal Representations and Operations 20% (Wed/Thur, Dec 5/6)

The majority of the questions on each test will be problem-solving, although short answer may be included. Partial credit may be given IF all work is neatly shown. Items should NOT need interpretation if full credit is to be given.

Because emergency situations may occur that affect a student's performance on an exam or may even prevent a student from attending on a test day, I will replace the lowest test grade with the percentage correct

on the final exam that covers the same material. This provision will only be applied to ONE exam, so students should make every effort to be present and well-prepared for each exam. This will only apply to the lowest test grade and only if the final exam percentage is higher.

**Make-up tests because of an absence on a test date are generally NOT given.** Make-up occurs on the final exam day. The zero received for the missed test is the lowest grade, so no other test may be replaced.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

- Activities (Act) are activities usually started in class and completed on an individual basis. Activities will NOT be graded. Answer keys are available on Mrs. Singleton's website.

### **NON-TEST GRADES 15%:** (approximately 800 points)

- LESSON NOTEBOOK: The purpose of the notebook is to help you, the preservice teacher, accumulate resources for when you have your own classroom. (See additional handout; 280 points)
- REVIEWS: Reviews of professional articles. 10 points each (40 points total)
- DAILY GRADES: Handouts that reflect and review your understanding of the material covered in class and the textbook. (usually 10 points each approximately 250 points)
- WRITING APPLICATIONS (Word Problems) (190 points, handouts will be given later)

### **FINAL EXAM 25%:**

The Final Exam will be a comprehensive exam. MW-9:30 class on Mon, Dec 10, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, MW 12:30 class on Wed, Dec 12, 1:15 - 3:15 pm, TR-8 class on Tues, Dec 11, 8:00 - 10:00 am.

**Grading Scale:** A: [90, 100+), B: [80, 90), C: [70, 80), D: [60, 70), F: [0, 60) **A "C" in this course is required in order to take Math 351.**

***Classroom Environment: RESPECT*** "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

We are all here to learn. Therefore, to minimize the disruptions and distractions that detract from and interrupt the learning environment, all electronic devices will be turned off or set to silent, all caps and hats will be removed, appropriate dress for future teachers followed, and all people treated with respect. Students who do not abide by this policy will be asked to leave, counted absent, and receive a zero(s) for any daily work.

***Getting Help:*** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Halladay Student Services Building, Room 303 A/D, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148, [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**

For help with assignments, classroom activities, or any thing else, please feel free to drop in during my posted office hours, or call me. Outside these hours, please email me. I will check my email several times a day in order to reply as promptly as possible.

The MATH LAB was created to provide tutors to students who need extra help in a math course. Tutors are available according to the following schedule:

Monday, Wednesday: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

***Academic Integrity:*** Because the majority of students are honest in their school work, I accept the responsibility to take measures to protect you, an honest student, from the few students who would take advantage of you and obtain grades by fraudulent or deceptive means. Please understand that the efforts to prevent cheating in this class are made out of respect and obligation to you as an honest person, not as an insult. Your cooperation will reduce the inconvenience and encourage the person who is tempted to cheat to do his/her work honestly. Academic dishonesty takes many forms:

- Giving or receiving answers during an exam or quiz.
- Viewing the exam or quiz answers of a nearby classmate.
- Having notes / practice work available during quizzes or tests.
- Possession or access to test items before the test is given.

- Deception in getting an excused absence to obtain the undeserved opportunity to make-up work.
- Any method, no matter how well rationalized or accepted, which improves a person's grade by any means other than study and skillful performances on exams and/or other assignments.
- **PRESENCE of ELECTRONIC DEVICES during a quiz or test.** If cell phones, texting devices, or music players are IN SIGHT during a quiz or test, the owner will receive a zero on the quiz or test.

Students found guilty of an act of academic dishonesty in this course will be subject to the following actions in this course: A first violation in a class will result in a zero on the task/assignment/quiz/test. No make-up will be allowed nor will you be allowed a final exam substitution in the case of an exam. A second violation in a class will result in an "F" in the course, regardless of current average. Appropriate offices will be notified in all incidents.

**Grade Reporting for Freshmen:** Grades for students in freshmen level classes will be reported to the Registrar's Office at the end of the fifth week of class during the fall and spring semesters. The Registrar's Office will report grades to students, Advising Services, Academic Departments (faculty advisors) and mentors. This procedure will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester. The university, through Advising Services, faculty advisors, and mentors, will take steps to assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. Early intervention for freshmen students is designed to communicate to students the University's interest in their success and willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their objectives.

**Remaining enrolled in this class indicates that you are agreeing to abide by these policies.**

### General Schedule

Week	Topic	Week	Topic
1	Introduction to Course Problem Solving steps and strategies	9	<b>Test # 2</b> Fractions - Length model
2	Numeration Bases	10	Fractions - Set model Fractions - Area model
3	Base 10 Addition and Subtraction models	11	Equivalent fractions Improper fractions, Mixed numbers Ordering fractions
4	Addition mechanics Subtraction mechanics Integer representations and add and subtract	12	Adding & subtracting fractions Multiplying & dividing fractions
5	<b>Test # 1</b> Multiplication and Division models	13	Decimal Representations <b>Thanksgiving</b>
6	Multiplication mechanics Division mechanics Integer multiplication and division	14	Decimal Operations <b>Lesson notebook due</b>
7	Properties of numbers Divisibility rules, prime & composite numbers	15	Decimal Operations <b>Test # 3</b>
8	Prime factorization GCF and LCM Coordinate Graphing	16	<b>Final exam</b>