Math 1314: College Algebra
Spring 2013

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 9:30-10:30 AM, 2:30-4:30 PM and/or by appointment

Course Description:
College Algebra. A passing grade in this course will satisfy the mathematics portion of your university studies requirements. This course covers an in-depth study and applications of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations. Additional topics such as sequences and series are included.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1) Demonstrate knowledge of properties of functions, which include domain and range, operations, compositions, and inverses.
2) Identify, interpret, and solve problems of various types of functions and their graphs, including but not limited to linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
3) Apply graphing techniques for various functions.
4) Identify and develop basic sequences and series.
5) Solve systems of equations with various methods including elimination, substitution, Cramer’s rule and matrices.

Class Format: Class time will be spent in lecture, demonstrations, quizzes, group work, and tests. All work should be completed in pencil, please.

Materials: You must purchase a copy of MyMathLab/MyLab student access code from either of the campus bookstores or directly from Pearson at http://www.coursecompass.com. The book we will be using is College Algebra, 5th Edition by Blitzer, ISBN #978-0-321-55983-8. We will cover selected portions of this text. The MyMathLab access code includes access to an e-book, so the book is optional but the MyMathLab access code is required. Any physical book you purchase must be accompanied by a MyMathLab software package with a student access code. You will have to purchase a new MyMathLab access code if you have an account with MyMathLab for your Intermediate Algebra class the previous semester. You do NOT need to purchase a new MyMathLab access code if you are retaking this course using MyMathLab for the same book with the same edition. Please come see me for directions to do so.

Please use the MyMathLab 17 day free trial to start working on your homework if you cannot purchase it right away. The MyMathLab student access code must be purchased by the beginning of the 3rd week of class to prevent a loss in points.
You will need a notebook for taking notes and storing handouts, exams, etc. All turned-in work must be done in pencil. A Texas Instruments (TI-83, TI-83 Plus, TI-84, or TI-84 Plus) graphing calculator for this course is highly recommended. Use of graphing calculators will be required throughout the course and each student must have access to a suitable graphing calculator. The graphing calculator must have at least the capabilities of the TI-83 (the highly recommended calculator). Graphing calculators other than Texas Instruments calculators may be used but classroom instruction on calculators will be given for TI equipment only.

Students need to check their e-mail regularly with the address that they have provided to the instructor for class announcements. Access to MyMathLab, a computer, and the Internet will be needed for online homework assignments.

**Calculator Loan Program:** The Mathematics Department has set up a calculator loan program to support students. Students can borrow a calculator for a semester with a fee ($10 - $15 for TI-83/84). The loan program works on a first come, first served basis.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned every class period. You are expected to do all problems using MyMathLab by the due date announced in class and listed online. **No late homework will be accepted past the due date unless special arrangements are made with the instructor ahead of time.**

If you experience any technical difficulties with MyMathLab, be sure to use the online help and technical support from the software company. If you continue to have trouble accessing or navigating the software, please contact me for some individual help. If you have questions concerning the homework, email me, or come by my office during my office hours for help.

**Quizzes:** There will be quizzes sprinkled throughout the semester. No make-up quizzes will be given, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

**Project(s):** Application problems related to course materials and projects will be assigned during the semester.

**Competency Exam:** Math 1314 students are required to take the competency exam that covers the prerequisite materials for college algebra. Students need to seek tutoring help if they do not pass the competency exam on the first try (in class). This test must be passed with an 80% or better for the grade to be recorded. The competency exam is graded with no partial credit. Scoring below 80% will result in a zero being recorded. Competency exams must be passed with an 80% or better by **Friday, February 22nd**, or a zero will be recorded and averaged into the final grade. The Competency Exam accounts for 10% of the final course grade. **NOTE:** These skills are necessary for success in this and all future math courses.
Exams: There are three scheduled exams that will be given after completion of each chapter or section of material covered. Partial credit may be given on exams if all work is neatly shown on the exam. **CELL PHONES AND OTHER SUCH DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND STORED OUT OF THE STUDENT’S REACH DURING AN EXAM.** The only electronic device allowed during tests and quizzes is a stand-alone calculator (such as a TI-34, TI-83, TI-85, etc.), and only with the instructor’s permission. A practice exam and answer key will be available prior to each exam.

I do not give any make-up exams unless pre-arranged and accompanied by a documented University excused absence. I realize that at times throughout the semester, emergency situations may arise that affect a student’s performance on an exam or even prevent a student from attending on an exam day. I am willing to replace each student's lowest exam grade with the student's grade on the related section of the final exam, provided the final exam section score is higher. This provision will only be applied to ONE exam, so students should make every effort to be present and well-prepared for all exams.

Exam Schedule: Tests will be given at regular intervals throughout the semester, whenever a section of material is complete. Tentative testing dates are as follows, but subject to change:

- Test 1 – Week of 2/18
- Test 2 – Week of 3/25
- Test 3 – Week of 4/17

Final Exam: The final exam will be a departmental, comprehensive exam. All students will take the exam at the same time. The final exam is scheduled for **Monday, May 6, from 3:30pm – 5:30pm.** Please note that this is an unusual time and make your arrangements to be present. Make-up final exams will not be allowed. Rooms are To Be Announced. Please pay attention in class for the location.

Attendance and Continual Enrollment: Due to the nature of this course, **attendance is a must to be successful in this class.** I will take roll every class period and it is expected that you follow the guidelines set forth by the Class Attendance Policy in the current Undergraduate Catalogue. Your attendance will be a part of your “daily grade” for this course.

If you represent TAMU-C on an athletic team, departmental team, scholastic team, choir, band, or other group and must miss class, notify me in writing with the appropriate documentation within one week of the absence in order not to be counted absent. Arrangements for make-up work will be made at that time.

All students should be aware that, according to University policy, they are NOT allowed to drop this math course, and that they must be continually enrolled in a math course until they have successfully completed their college-level math course. Therefore, all students should take this course seriously and make every effort to be in attendance and to be successful on the daily assignments and exams.
My Commitment: I will do my best to make quality presentations each class and, in return, I expect that you will do your best to learn the material presented in and outside classes. It is important that you be actively engaged in class activities. Questions are welcome in the classroom, and I will gladly schedule outside help for you if necessary. I know that together, these efforts can contribute significantly to your education in this class.

Getting Help Outside of Office Hours: Utilizing the multimedia library and online help from the MyMathLab computer software program is suggested as a valuable resource for many students to improve their grades in Math classes. Also, the free tutoring on campus is also highly recommended.

Tutoring: Students are required to spend an hour each week outside class in tutoring. Students can choose to attend tutoring in the Math Skills Center, TRIO, Supplemental Instruction (SI) tutoring sessions, and other on-campus tutoring sessions that are approved by the Mathematics Department.

Mach III/TRIO Program: The Mach III/TRIO Program is available for students who qualify for additional resources, such as private tutoring. In order to qualify, students must meet certain conditions, such as being a first-generation college student. For more information, contact TRIO at 903-886-5833 or in the Halladay Student Services building, Room 300.

Math Skills Center: The Mathematics Department has a Math Skills Center (Binnion 328) that is available to all students. Hours: M/W 8am – 8pm, T/R 8am – 6pm, and F 8am – 3pm. Computer tutorials, video libraries and live tutors are there to help you with all subject matter in this course. I encourage you to take full advantage of this FREE service. Every Math 1314 student is urged to attend the Math Skills Center in order to receive help in areas of math where the student may feel uncertain. In addition, the Academic Success Center also offers supplemental instruction/tutoring for students and their hours can be found at the university web site.

Classroom Behavior: Appropriate classroom behavior is required to attend this class. All cell phones and other such devices must be put on silent or turned off during class. Phones are a distraction for me and the other students in the class. NOTE: THIS INCLUDES BLUETOOTH AND OTHER DEVICES THAT ARE PLACED IN THE EAR. All people will be treated with respect and I will not allow talking that will disrupt my lectures. If disruptions occur during class lectures, you will be asked to leave class and will earn a zero on any applicable grades for that class period. Serial disrupters will be asked to withdraw from my class. This will mean that you are withdrawn from school, entirely.

“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.)
Grading Policy:  
Exams 50%  
Final 25%  
Competency Exam 10%  
Daily Grade 15%  
(Homework, Quizzes, Tutoring, Projects, and Attendance)  

Grading Scale:  
A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below  

Academic Integrity:  
I find that a majority of students are honest in doing their schoolwork. However, we must take measures to protect the academic integrity of the classroom. I have a NO TOLERANCE policy for cheating and if you are caught cheating, you will fail that portion of the course, and possibly the entire course. Cheating in this course is defined as the following:  
- Giving or receiving answers during an exam or quiz.  
- Viewing the exam or quiz answers of nearby classmates.  
- Having notes/practice work/etc. 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.  
- Use of cell phones or text messaging technology during exams or quizzes. You may NOT use the calculator on your cell phones or any other similar electronic devices (such as I-Pods, I-Touch, etc.). IF ONE OF THESE DEVICES IS AVAILABLE, IN ANY WAY, DURING AN EXAM OR QUIZ, THE STUDENT WILL BE GIVEN AN AUTOMATIC “0” ON THE ASSIGNMENT.  
- Improper citations in written works, or using another person’s ideas and words as your own without giving proper credit.  
- 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.  

Students found guilty of an act of academic dishonesty in this course will be subject to receiving an “F” in this course.
**Early Intervention for First Year Students:** Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University’s interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. 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. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

**Student Health Services** are located at Henderson Hall (Corner of Lee St. and Monroe St.). It offers health care to the student body of Texas A&M University – Commerce. It provides primary health care services including treatment of illness, injury, and women’s health. **Tel:** (903) 886-5853.

**University Police Department** is located at Henderson Hall. For Emergency, please call: 911 For Non-Emergency, please call: 903.886.5868

**Students with Disabilities:** 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, Room 132, Gee Library
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

**BY REMAINING ENROLLED IN THIS COURSE, ALL STUDENTS AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE POLICIES OF THIS CLASS, AS STATED IN THE SYLLABUS.**

Good Luck and WORK HARD!!!