

Math 1050 - 2: College Algebra
TH 7:30-9:30 p.m., WEB 1250

Instructor: Noelle Conforti

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Office Hours: My office hours for this term are tentatively:

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7:00 p.m. - 7:25 p.m. group homework sessions (WEB 1250)

Wednesdays: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (LCB 318)

If you are unable to use the above times, you may make an appointment with me. I am always happy to make other arrangements, but I may not be available if you stop by unannounced.

Text: *Precalculus*, 7th edition, by Larson and Hostetler.

Website: You will find a link to the course website from my website, www.math.utah.edu/~conforti. This is your guide to everything relating to this course, including exam and quiz dates, homework assignments, and the course schedule. I will also post announcements here. You should check the website several times a week.

Additional Resources and Information:

T. Benny Rushing Mathematics Tutoring Center: under the plaza between LCB and JWB, open starting the second week of classes, hours: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Private Tutoring: University Tutoring Services, SSB 330 (they offer inexpensive tutoring). There is also a list of tutors at the Math Department office in JWB 233.

Calculators: It is very important to master basic algebra skills without depending on a calculator. Calculators are NOT allowed on quizzes, exams, or the final exam.

Prerequisites and Course Content: The prerequisite for Math 1050 is a C or better in Math 1010 or a math ACT score of at least 23. Math 1050 meets the QA general education requirements for graduation. Math 1050 is also one of the prerequisites for calculus. The other is Math 1060, Trigonometry, which uses the same book as this course. Students may take Math 1050 and 1060 in sequence or concurrently. Effective Spring 2008, students who do not complete a prerequisite math course with a C or better will not be allowed to advance to the next level math course.

The main topics of Math 1050 are: Rapid review of intermediate algebra; Functions, inverses and graphs; polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions; systems of equations and matrices; applications; arithmetic and geometric sequences and series. The main objective of this course is to ensure you are fluent with algebraic manipulations, functions, and cartesian coordinates to be prepared for calculus.

Homework and Quizzes: Homework problems for each section covered in the text will be posted on the course website (www.math.utah.edu/~conforti). It is expected that you read the sections of the text before we cover a given section in class and work all suggested homework problems for a given section immediately after we have discussed it in class. Homework will not be collected, but short quizzes (15-20 minutes) will be given on the homework material at the beginning of class (so be on time!) 7 times during the semester. Quiz dates are posted on the course website, and upcoming quizzes will be highlighted. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester, and for this reason no make up quizzes will be given. It is absolutely essential that you keep up with the homework assignments as we cover the sections in class.

Exams: You will have three exams throughout the semester and a comprehensive final exam. Your lowest exam (not the final) score will be dropped, so only two will count toward your final grade. The structure and topics of each exam will be discussed prior to the examination date, and exams will be held in class. There will be **no makeup exams** and alternate dates will only be arranged for participants in University sponsored activities that prevent those students from being in class, or students with disabilities falling under the ADA. Such students should inform me of the conflict as soon as possible (athletes and those with disabilities should inform me early in the semester).

Exam Dates: The dates of the exams are:

- Exam 1: Thursday, June 5
- Exam 2: Tuesday, July 1
- Exam 3: Tuesday, July 22.

Course Grade: The grading for this class is:

- Quizzes 30 %
- Exams 20% each (see dates, in class) 40 %
- Final (**Thursday, July 31 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**) 30 %

The final CANNOT be rescheduled unless it conflicts with another University final, so do not plan anything (ie: plane flights) that will conflict with it.

Important Dates

Monday, May 12	Classes Start
Wednesday, May 21	Last day to drop without penalties
Tuesday, May 27	Tuition Due
Friday, June 20	Last day to withdraw
Thursday, July 24	Pioneer Day (No Classes)
Wednesday, July 30	Classes end
Thursday, July 31	Final Exam (7:30 - 9:30 p.m.) (30% of grade)
Tuesday, August 12	Grades available

Additional policies regarding my classroom administration.

1. There will NEVER be retakes of exams. I NEVER offer extra credit.
2. I expect you to present your work in an organized manner. Neatness and organization will save you time and enhance your understanding. Make note of how I solve problems on the board during class and organize your work similarly.
3. I demand respect in my classroom. I expect you to be on time and stay until class has ended (without packing up early), pay attention, turn your cell phones and laptops off during class, and be respectful of your classmates' questions and answers.
4. Daily class attendance is expected, but making a consistent effort outside of class is the easiest way to do well in this course. If you registered for this course I expect you have no other commitments during this time, and I will not tolerate a recurring commitment that causes you to miss class (ie: working every Thursday).
5. I expect you to approach me with questions and concerns about your progress as soon as they arise. The earlier you come to me for help, the more likely there will be a positive outcome. I am always happy to discuss your progress and ways to improve your class performance.
6. I understand that sometimes extenuating circumstances make missing class necessary. You may be allowed to take an alternate exam if you talk to me about it **before** the exam, but it is your responsibility to communicate with me. I reserve the right to make alternate exams more difficult than the scheduled exam. Obviously, crisis level extenuating circumstances require more flexibility. In all cases, the earlier you talk to me, the more I can do to help you.

Nondiscrimination and Disability Access Statement: The University seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, **reasonable prior notice** needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 801-581-5020 or 801-585-1813 (both are TDD). If you require special accommodations under the ADA please inform me through official channels **early** in the semester.

Academic Integrity: Cheating will not be tolerated! Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic integrity violations are serious matters and will be dealt with according to University policies. Such violations could result in a grade of (E) for the course or dismissal from the University.

Disclaimer: This syllabus has been created as a guide to the class and is as accurate as possible. However, all information is subject to change. Any changes will be discussed during class sessions.

How to Succeed in Mathematics*

(*adapted from Larson and Hostetler and material from Prof. Peter Alfeld)

I love mathematics, but I realize you may not. In fact, you may think you hate mathematics or that you just aren't a math person. While I understand and acknowledge these feelings, I believe they are unnecessarily limiting to you. Even if you never come to love mathematics, you can successfully study mathematics and pass your required math courses!

Studying mathematics takes time and effort. The courses proceed in a logical sequence, and as a result, it is vital you have the appropriate prerequisites and that you do not fall behind during the current semester. Focusing on understanding the subject will be more efficient and empowering than just memorizing countless formulas. Finally, everyone (including me!) makes mistakes. Understanding and correcting your mistakes shows great mathematical maturity. If you think you see a mistake on the board in class, please don't hesitate to bring it to my attention! Below are some suggestions that will help you be successful in this math class and any others you may take.

Preparing for Class:

- Expect to spend 2-4 hours studying and doing homework outside of class per hour in class.
- Read the sections from the text to be covered (including examples) focusing on main ideas, definitions, rules, and concepts that are emphasized.
- Make note of what you do not understand. If you are still confused after class, ask questions.

Keeping Up:

- Attend EVERY class. Bring your text, notebook, and pen/pencil. If you miss class, get the notes from a classmate as soon as possible and review them carefully.
- Take notes in class. After class, review your notes carefully and add explanations so that they make sense to YOU.
- Reread (thoroughly) the portion of the text that was covered in class.
- Do the assigned homework ASAP using your notes from class and the text as your guides.

Getting Extra Help:

- Come to office hours.
- Find a study partner/group.
- Visit the tutoring center or get regular help from a private tutor.

Preparing for an Exam:

- Don't cram! Be sure you understand the material by completing the above steps consistently.
- Review your notes, the text, and your quizzes. Read the review guide given in class, and work the suggested review problems given in class.
- Be ON TIME without having to rush, and come prepared with a writing utensil.
- Once the exam begins, read the directions and the problems. Work the problems you know how to do first to avoid spending too much time on one problem. Time management is key.
- If you finish early, use the remaining time to check your work.
- When you get the graded exam back, review it carefully, reworking the problems you answered incorrectly. Discovering mistakes will help you in the future.