

Spring 2012 Syllabus for Math 1050-5 - College Algebra

MWF 11:50-12:40

Instructor: Marilyn Keir JWB 212

Text: *PRECALCULUS*, 7th edition Larson - Hostetler

NOTICE: Because this 4-hour class is held only 3 times per week, more will be expected of you at home. You will be expected to come to class having watched a video, read the text and prepared with problems and questions to discuss.

THIS COURSE: College Algebra is a challenging subject. I will do everything I can to help you be successful but please realize success will also require extraordinary effort on your part. You will need to attend class faithfully and spend significant time and effort on the homework assignments.

PREREQUISITES: The prerequisite for this course is at least a C (preferably a B) in mathematics 1010 or its equivalent or an ACT score of at least 23. Students are expected to already have the basic algebra skills contained in Chapter A: Review of basic algebra.

HOMEWORK: You will be assigned several problems for each lecture. You are encouraged to work in groups on your assigned problems. It is important to keep up on the homework. If you get behind, the course becomes overwhelming. Homework assignments will not be collected but should be completed before the next lecture. Questions will be addressed at the beginning of each class.

WEBWORKS: A weekly assignment will be given on WeBWorKs. More information on this will be discussed in class.

STUDY TIPS: a) Study with a group. b) Read each section and watch the video before coming to class. c) Attend class regularly. d) Work the assigned problems as soon after the lecture as possible. e) Come to class prepared to ask questions. f) An ounce of understanding is worth a ton of memorization!

QUIZZES, TESTS: There will be a short quiz **each Friday** except for the days we have midterms. There will be two midterm exams and a final comprehensive exam at the end of the semester. You may drop two quizzes Make-up tests and quizzes will not be allowed.

ADDITIONAL HELP: The Tutoring Center is free. It is located downstairs in LCB. Tutoring Center hours are MTWH 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. You may contact me during office hours for help as well.

TECHNOLOGY: A graphing calculator is highly recommended for this course. Graphing calculators will be used in some lectures and will be allowed on portions of exams, but not on the final. You will not be allowed to borrow from another student taking the exam. I will be using a Texas Instruments TI-84 calculator in class. You are responsible to learn how to use your calculator. It is important that you develop both paper/pencil and technology skills in mathematics.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Both you as a student and I as an instructor share two common goals for this semester. First one is that you learn the material so that you can progress to the subsequent courses needed for you to become a successful professional in the occupation you chose for yourself. Second one is for you to develop habits of mind that will help you achieve the first goal and help you become an effective problem solver. All the policies for this class have been established with those goals in mind.

It has been shown that attending classes can help students be more successful in class, but despite that students choose not to attend the class for various reasons. However, it is not enough to just be there. Rarely does one learn only by listening. You need to actively participate and exercise mentally.

You may be wondering what active participation is? In our class active participation means working on the problems given either individually or in a small group. This is very different from the more traditional method of transcribing notes dictated by the instructor. In order to prepare yourself to do this in a meaningful way, you will be required to read the book and watch a video of the material to be covered. **Be on time and ready to engage in the work.**

GRADE: The grade will be calculated by: Quizzes (15%), WeBWorKs, (15%) Midterms (40%) and Final (30%). You may view your grades on our WEBCT page. **Grading Scale:** A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), E (0-59).

Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be made for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact me *at the beginning of the semester* to discuss any such accommodations for the course.

DATES:	
MLK Day	Mon., 1/16
President's Day	Mon., 2/20
Spring Break	Mar. 12-16
Last day to drop	Wed., 1/18
Last day to withdraw	Fri., 3/ 2
Last Class	Wed., 4/25

EXAMS	
Midterm 1	2/17
Midterm 2	3/30
Final	Wed. 5/2 10:30 am

Other Policies:

1. Be on time.
2. Do not leave before the class is dismissed. Do not pack up before the class is dismissed (the noise level produced by even 60 shuffling backpacks is amazing).
3. Turn your cell phones OFF. You may use them only at my explicit request.
4. There will be no retakes of exams...ever. Your score is what you get.
5. I will demand respectful behavior in my classroom. Examples of disrespect include reading a newspaper or magazine in class, social chatting with your friend in class, text-messaging your buddies during class or cuddling with your girl/boyfriend in class. In all of these instances I may decide to ask you to leave the class which will result in the loss of participation points, but more importantly in reduced opportunities for your learning.
6. You should always wear one green and one yellow sock.
7. There will be no cursing or negative ranting (for example, "math sucks") on any written work turned in. The penalty for such things on your written work will be a zero score on that assignment or test!
8. **I will regularly send emails to the class through CIS and expect you to be responsible for receiving that information.**
9. I expect you to **READ** everything I send you: emails, syllabi, homework problems, announcements, any pertinent documents and so forth. You are always welcome to ask questions if something is unclear, and I usually respond very quickly. If I don't that must mean that your question had already been answered in one of the documents I sent that you have not read! So check again.
10. This is **YOUR** education. Take responsibility, initiative and action.