

MATH 112 - COLLEGE ALGEBRA

Spring Semester - 2009

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Office Hours: I will be in the classroom on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:15 to answer any questions that you may have. I will also be available after class. Other times can be arranged by appointment.

Text: College Algebra (Revised Edition), by Ruud and Shell and Workbook

Graphing Calculator: All students will need a graphics calculator for this class. The recommended calculator is one of the TI-83/84 calculators. Another sufficient calculator is the new TI-Nspire (non-CAS version). The math department has a rule stating that the TI-89 is not allowed for a College Algebra student. You should bring your calculator to class every day, as it will be an integral part in our instruction.

Exam Schedule and Grading Policy:

Tests: Three tests, worth 100 points each, one quiz, worth 50 points, and a comprehensive final exam, worth 150 points will be given during the semester. There will be parts of every test/quiz that require a graphing calculator. The dates of the tests, quiz, and final exam are listed on the pink sheet attached.

Homework Assignments: Homework problems will be assigned each day and a few of these problems will be collected each week that there is not a test. These 12 assignments will be graded and will be worth 10 points each. Assignments are due each Monday, however, if they are turned in before class begins on Wednesday, there will be no penalty. I will still accept the assignment until class time on Friday, but a 3 point penalty (out of 10 points) will be assessed. No assignments will be accepted after the beginning of class on Friday. At the end of the semester, the lowest two homework scores will be dropped. Please follow these guidelines in turning in homework assignments:

1. Put your name and the assignment number at the top of the paper.
2. All assignments are to be done on engineering paper. (Engineering paper is not graph paper!) Engineering paper can be purchased at the bookstore. Please use only one side of the paper when doing assignments.
3. Show all work neatly since messy papers may not be graded.
4. Include graphs where appropriate. The graphs can either be a sketch or a computer printout with important information identified.
5. Staple your papers together.
6. Make sure you do the assigned problems since no credit will be given for the work on a problem that was not assigned.

You are able to work together in doing homework assignments and review assignments, however, copying someone's assignment will not be tolerated. If this occurs, all students involved will receive no credit on the assignment.

Please make a serious effort to keep up with the daily assignments!

Points Summary: Therefore, you will be accumulating a possible 650 points during the semester.

Exams:	300 points	
Quiz	50 points	
Final Exam:	150 points	
Homework Assgn:	100 points	(after 2 lowest scores are dropped)

Total:	600 points	

Your final grade will be determined by the percentage of these points you have actually received.

A: 90% - 100%, B: 80% - 89%, C: 70% - 79%, D: 60% - 69%, F: Below 60%

Attendance: The mathematics department has an attendance policy in place for all College Algebra classes. It says that "students with more than three unexcused absences may be administratively dropped from the course." My teaching experience has indicated that there is strong correlation between "students not being successful in a class" and "students lack of attendance in the class". Therefore, daily attendance will be taken. Consequences could be applied to students with a large number of absences; especially those with low test scores. Also, it would be greatly appreciated if everyone could arrive to class on time, since we will begin at 9:00 AM and tardies can be disruptive to the class.

Some Final Comments:

1. The key differences between learning at the UA and learning at your high school are:
 - You, and not your teachers, are now responsible for your education.
 - A majority of your learning may not take place in the classroom.
2. A Frequently Asked Question: How much time should I be spending on my College Algebra per week?
Answer: A "full-time job" is considered to be 40 hours per week and a "full-time student" is considered to have a schedule of 15 hours per week. If you subtract 15 hours of class time from the 40 hours, that leaves 25 hours of studying per week. $\frac{3}{15}$ of 25 is 5 hours of studying College Algebra, outside of classtime, per week.
3. Not everyone in this room has the same aptitude for mathematics, or has the same preparation for a College Algebra course. Some of you will need to work harder (and more hours) than others to be successful. Mathematics, like life, is not always fair!
4. Please turn off and put away all cell phones at the beginning of each class!

Assignment #1

Due Wednesday 1/21

Day	Practice Problems	Problems To Turn In
Wednesday	1. 1.1 #3, 7, 35	1. 1.1 #4, 8, 36
Friday	2. 1.1 #9 3. Worksheet-Identifying Functions	2. 1.1 #10 3. Does the relation $x = y $ define a function? Explain your answer.