

HENRY FORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MATHEMATICS DIVISION COURSE SYLLABUS

MATH 080-31: Beginning Algebra (3 cr.)

T R 1:10 – 2:30p in L-228

Fall 2009

INSTRUCTOR: Scott Barnett

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Internet: sebarnett@hfcc.edu / <http://adm.hfcc.edu/~sebarnett>
Telephone: (313) 845-6496 [VOICE]; (313) 317-4089 [FAX]
Office: A-224 (in the Learning Technology Center)
Office Hours: A schedule is photocopied onto the back of the syllabus.

Learning Lab computer access: 8:00a – 8:40p MTWR; 8:00a – 4:30p F; 9:40a – 1:40p Sat

Media Center computer access: 7:30a – 9:00p MTWR; 7:30a – 4:30p F; 9:00a – 5:00p Sat; 1:00 – 6:00p Sun

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course is intended as a developmental course for students who need to develop skills in beginning algebra topics. Topics covered include solutions of linear equations and inequalities, an introduction to graphing linear equations, polynomial operations, factoring, properties of integer exponents, and solutions to quadratic equations by factoring. Techniques of problem-solving and applications are included throughout the course.

PREREQUISITE: A grade of C or better in MATH 074 or a satisfactory score on the placement test.

COURSE GOALS:

- (1) To develop in students a basic understanding of algebraic concepts, principles, and methods.
- (2) To develop in students elementary algebraic skills necessary for success in subsequent mathematics courses and other courses requiring mathematical skills.
- (3) To develop in students the problem-solving skills needed to interpret, analyze, and solve applied problems requiring beginning-level algebraic skills.

MAJOR CORE COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:

1. Simplify expressions using the rules of exponents, rules for combining like terms, the distributive property, and rules for order of operations.
2. Evaluate expressions in one or more variables.
3. Solve linear equations, linear inequalities, literal equations, and factorable quadratic equations.
4. Solve application problems modeled by linear equations and inequalities and factorable quadratic equations using the 5-step method.
5. Construct the graph of a linear equation in 2 variables by making a table of values, by finding the intercepts, and by using the slope-intercept form of the equation; or by recognizing the equation as that of a horizontal or vertical line.
6. Find the slope of a line given its graph, its equation, or 2 points on the line.
7. Find the x-intercept and y-intercept of a linear equation from its graph or its equation.
8. Add, subtract, and multiply polynomials. Divide a polynomial by a monomial.
9. Factor polynomials by factoring common factors, by grouping, by recognizing a difference of two squares, and by trinomial factoring methods.
10. Simplify a rational expression with factorable numerator and denominator.

*=fulfills HFCC General Education Outcome for critical thinking and problem-solving

TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

Required: Beginning Algebra, 5th Ed., by Martin-Gay (ISBN-10: 0321565258)
MyMathLab
a scientific calculator, a straightedge (ruler), and graph paper

Optional: Student's Solution Manual for Beginning Algebra
(ISBN-10: 0136031080)

MPASS (Math Practice And Supplemental Sessions)

This class offers more support for students than typical Math 080 sections. Twice per week a student leader will conduct sessions where you can get questions answered, do homework, do extra practice, and review for quizzes and tests. The sessions are open for all students enrolled in this section. Please take advantage of the extra support. Historically students who attend MPASS do better in the class than those who do not. The schedule for MPASS will be announced after Mr. McNeil and I tabulate the survey we gave you today about the times you are available.

For some students MPASS will be mandatory. Please see the grading section of the syllabus for more details.

****TENTATIVE** INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN:**

Chapter 1	Review of Real Numbers	Sections 1.4 and 1.8
Chapter 2	Equations, Inequalities, and Problem-Solving	Sections 2.1 – 2.7
	TEST ONE	Tuesday, September 29, 2009
Chapter 2	Equations, Inequalities, and Problem-Solving	Section 2.9
Chapter 3	Graphing	Sections 3.1 – 3.5
	TEST TWO	Tuesday, October 20, 2009
Chapter 5	Exponents and Polynomials	Sections 5.1 – 5.6
	TEST THREE	Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Chapter 6	Factoring Polynomials	Sections 6.1 – 6.7
	TEST FOUR	Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Chapter 7	Rational Expressions	Sections 7.1, 7.5, and 7.6
	COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM	Thursday, December 17, 2009 (11:45a – 1:30p)

Class will not meet Thursday, November 12 (I'll be away at a conference) and Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving).

INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES:

Homework: Online assignments (at www.coursecompass.com) and perhaps hand-in (paper-based) assignments will be given throughout the semester. For hand-in assignments, points awarded, while largely determined by the content of the work, may also be affected by presentation (legibility, following directions, turning in paper without spiral edges remaining, etc.). **The instructor is not responsible for computer or other equipment failures that prevent a student from submitting an assignment on time.**

Suggested homework problems will be assigned during most class meetings. These should be done by the following class meeting, but they are not to be turned in, and they are not graded. Students who don't do the suggested homework, however, do not usually do well on the exams. On a typical day, no more than a few minutes will be spent going over homework questions in class. **Students whose questions are not answered in class should feel free to take advantage of office hours or to use the services of the Learning Lab.**

Quizzes and Tests: There will be six quizzes (the best five of which will count) and four tests during the regular semester. In addition, there will be a cumulative final exam. Although in rare circumstances it may be possible to take a test (other than the final exam) early, there will, in general, be no make-up tests given. There will be no make-up quizzes. The final-exam score may be scaled to replace up to one missed or low test score provided that the student's homework average at the end of the semester is at least 80%.

Attendance: Attendance is taken daily. While no points are directly deducted if a student misses class, please note the above comments about late work.

Grading Procedures:

MPASS: If your course average falls below an 80% after the first quiz, or any of the first three tests, MPASS becomes mandatory for you. You must attend at least three (3) MPASS sessions before the next test. If you do not attend three (3) MPASS sessions YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE NEXT TEST. Make sure you attend class the next meeting after a test so you will know if MPASS is required. Absences will not excuse you from this requirement. Plan to attend three MPASS sessions soon after the test. If you wait until the last three sessions to start attending and have a family emergency or get ill I will not excuse you from the requirement.

This is an expectation of the class and you are expected to adjust your schedule to attend MPASS sessions. In rare instances if a student tells me immediately about a schedule conflict and documents the conflict I may be able to work out another way to meet this requirement.

1.	Homework	10%
2.	Quizzes	10%
2.	Tests One through Four	15% each (60% total)
3.	Cumulative Final Exam	20%

Let x be the overall percentage earned.

$90 \leq x$	A grade	$60 \leq x < 70$	D grade
$80 \leq x < 90$	B grade	$0 \leq x < 60$	E grade
$70 \leq x < 80$	C grade		

All material submitted for the course will be returned to the students except for the final exam.

Drop Policy:

College Policy: Students may officially drop a class and receive a *DR* grade anytime up until the end of the day Thursday, November 12, 2009. If a student stops attending without officially withdrawing, the instructor may record either an *E* or a *DR* grade.

Instructor Policy: After November 12, 2009, a student may receive a *DR* grade if he or she requests the grade from the instructor IN WRITING, IN PERSON, using the form provided by the instructor, anytime during office hours on or before Monday, December 14, 2009. Both the instructor and the student will retain signed copies of the form used. Note that drops are **NOT** accepted verbally, by e-mail, voice mail, etc.

Academic Dishonesty:

College Board of Trustees Policy #8500 (adopted 3/17/97):

“...It shall be the policy of the College that determination of the fact of academic dishonesty by a student shall be a matter of individual judgment by the instructor. The instructor may administer a penalty up to, and including, failure in the particular course...”

Instructor Policy:

Academic dishonesty of any form will result in a penalty up to, and including, immediate failure in the course and the recording of a final grade of *E* in the course. The penalty levied for a particular occurrence of academic dishonesty is at the sole discretion of the instructor. **To help ensure the integrity of quiz and test scores, students are not allowed to leave the classroom during a quiz or test, and students are not allowed to share calculators during a quiz or test.**

Classroom Decorum:

Cell phones and other noise-making electronic devices are disruptive and should be put into “silent” mode or turned off during class. Talking with other students, even about mathematics, is disruptive to the class during lectures. Sleeping, doing work for other classes, eating more than a small snack, and leaving the room without a serious reason are examples of inappropriate classroom behaviors that detract from the learning environment.

MATHEMATICS DIVISION POLICY ON CUT-OFF DATE FOR STUDENT DROP-DOWNS

Registered students may only drop down (move up) to another full-semester math class within the first three weeks of the Fall and Winter semesters. In order to drop down (move up), a student must:

- 1) Obtain the written permission of his/her current instructor stating that the student was misplaced.
- 2) See the Mathematics Associate Dean for assistance in finding open sections.
- 3) Officially file an Add-Drop form at the Registration office.