MTH 138-004 College Algebra Course Policy- Fall 2019

Instructor: Lorna De Sha
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Class meeting time and room: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 in MTH 357 from August 26 – December 6
Final Exam Wednesday, December 11, 10:45 – 1:15

Office Hours:

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>By appointment</td>
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Course Description
The core of this course is representing problems in mathematical terms then solving them. This is called mathematical modeling. We will particularly focus on solving equations, creating and interpreting functions, and graphically representing mathematical models. We will focus primarily on five models: linear, quadratic, higher polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions. Since it is difficult to make use of mathematics without being able to read and communicate in the language of mathematics, writing mathematics will be a focus of the course.

Required Materials
Book: Precalculus Version 3.0 by Edward B. Burger, ISBN: 9781453396391, You may purchase “Online Access Only” or the print version at this website: https://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/2589742

Calculator: You will need a scientific calculator for this class. Graphing calculators may be used, but are not required. The calculator function of a cell phone or tablet will not be permitted during tests.

Course Requirements
Exams: There will be three exams and a final exam. The final exam is comprehensive and mandatory. Your final exam grade can be used to replace a low or missing exam grade. Therefore, there will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, your final exam grade will be substituted in place of the missing exam grade. Please note that the dates for our in-class exams in the calendar below are subject to change. The final is university scheduled and cannot be taken at a different time without permission of the Dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics.

Daily Work: 15% of your grade will be determined by your daily average. This will include online homework assignments, in-class activities, worksheets, quizzes, etc. We will have a quiz every Friday over the sections covered that week. In-class activities, worksheets, homework, and quizzes cannot be made up, but I will drop the three lowest grades.

Attendance: Attendance will be recorded each class day. Students will be marked absent if, though physically present, the student refuses to participate in class activities (for example, sleeping, using phone, etc.) Students are responsible for any material missed.

Grading Policy

| 5% Attendance/Participation | 90% - 100% | A |
| 15% Daily Work Average       | 80% - 90%  | B |
| 60% Exams (3 at 20% each)    | 70% - 80%  | C |
| 20% Final Exam (Comprehensive)| 60% - 70%  | D |
|                              | < 60%      | F |

Additional Help: Free tutoring is available from the AARC located in the library. See www.sfasu.edu/aarc
Learning team enrollment is August 28 – 29 from 11-6 in the AARC.
| Week 1 | 8/26 – 8/30 | Basic algebra review  
1.2 Lines  
1.3 Variation |
|---|---|---|
| Week 2 | 9/2 – 9/6 | 1.4 Functions  
1.5 Graphs of Functions |
| Week 3 | 9/9 – 9/13 | 1.6 Transformations  
1.7 Combining Functions |
| Week 4 | 9/16 – 9/20 | 1.8 Inverse Functions  
Review  
Exam 1- Friday September 20 |
| Week 5 | 9/23 – 9/27 | 2.1 Quadratic Functions  
2.2 Polynomial Functions |
| Week 6 | 9/30 – 10/4 | 2.3 Dividing Polynomials  
2.4 Real Zeros |
| Week 7 | 10/7 – 10/11 | 2.5 Complex Zeros  
3.1 Rational Functions |
| Week 8 | 10/14 – 10/18 | Review  
Exam 2- Friday October 18 |
| Week 9 | 10/21 – 10/25 | 4.1 Exponential Function  
4.2 Logarithmic Functions |
| Week 10 | 10/28 – 11/1 | 4.3 Log Properties  
4.4 Exponential and Log |
| Week 11 | 11/4 – 11/8 | 4.5 Exponential and Log |
| Week 12 | 11/11 – 11/15 | Review  
Exam 3- Friday November 15 |
| Week 13 | 11/18 – 11/22 | 8.1 Systems of Equations  
9.1 Matrices |
| Week 14 | 11/25 – 11/29 | Off for Thanksgiving |
| Week 15 | 12/2 – 12/6 | Review |
| Week 16 | 12/9 – 12/13 | Final Exam  
138-004 Wednesday, December 11, 10:45 – 1:15 |
The following is an excerpt from SFA Policy 5.4:

The federal definition of a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates:

1. **Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or 10 to 12 weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, or;**

2. **At least an equivalent amount of work as outlined in item 1 above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.**

To this end, all students in courses offered by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics that wish to be successful should plan to spend a minimum of two hours outside of class for every credit hour associated with this course. Expected activities to be completed in the time outside of class include reviewing notes from previous class meetings, reading assigned course resources, completing all assigned exercises and projects, and performing periodic assessment preparation.

See [http://www2.sfasu.edu/math/docs/syllabi/MTH138Syllabus.pdf](http://www2.sfasu.edu/math/docs/syllabi/MTH138Syllabus.pdf) for elements common to all sections.