

MATH 103: College Algebra and Trigonometry

Section 003, fall 2008

Course information and policy sheet

Time: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 11:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

Location: Teachers College Hall 250

Web page: <http://www.math.unl.edu/~s-bkell1/103-2008f/>

Instructor: Brian Kell

Office: Avery Hall 344

Office phone: 402-472-7255

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(that's s-, followed by bkell for Brian Kell, followed by the digit 1)

Mailbox: 88 (Avery Hall 203)

Office hours: Mondays, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Thursdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

If you need to meet at a different time, please e-mail me to set up an appointment. These office hours are subject to change as my schedule is shuffled around; the most up-to-date version of my weekly schedule is available online at <http://www.zifyoip.com/me/sched/2008/fall.html> and is posted outside my office door.

Math department office: Avery Hall 203, 402-472-3731

Welcome to Math 103!

The goal of Math 103, College Algebra and Trigonometry, is to prepare you for Calculus I (Math 106). Successful completion of this course should be adequate preparation for beginning the calculus sequence at UNL. It will also help you to improve your ability to communicate ideas, and hopefully will show you some of the beauty and fascination of mathematics.

Mathematics does not have to be a difficult subject, but to do well, you will need to put in a lot of work outside of class. This course will move quickly and will cover things you have not seen before. It is very important to keep up with the class by reading the appropriate sections from the textbook before each lecture and working the given homework problems after each lecture. You should aim to put in at least ten hours of study each week outside of class. While most of the homework problems will not be graded, you will find that the problems on the quizzes and exams will be very difficult if you have not done the homework (and much easier if you have).

Academic integrity

You are expected to be honest. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of dishonesty in this course will not be tolerated. All work in this course must be completed in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct found in the 2008–2009 Undergraduate Bulletin, available online at <http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/undergrad/>.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is strongly recommended. It is not required, in the sense that it does not contribute directly to your grade in this course, but speaking from experience I can say that the students who get the highest grades are those who come to class regularly. Attendance will be taken during the first two weeks at the request of Registration and Records; this information is used to identify students who intend to drop the class, so it is important to attend during this period.

Just as it is important that you attend every class, it is also important that you arrive on time. Coming in late is disruptive and disrespectful to me and your fellow classmates. If you do arrive late, please enter the room and take your seat quietly.

While in class, please turn off your cell phone or set it to silent mode (turn off the vibrate feature, as this still makes noise).

Quizzes, homework, and challenge problems

This class meets for sixteen calendar weeks, not including Finals Week. (Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break together take up five days, so effectively there are fifteen weeks of class. This is why the week before Finals Week is called the Fifteenth Week, though it's really the sixteenth calendar week.) We will have a quiz every week except the four weeks with exams, so we will have a total of 12 quizzes. Generally the quiz will be on Friday, but there are two exceptions. Quizzes will be given on the following days:

Friday, 29 August	Friday, 10 October	Friday, 14 November
Friday, 5 September	Friday, 17 October	Friday, 21 November
Friday, 19 September	Wednesday, 29 October	Friday, 5 December
Friday, 26 September	Friday, 7 November	Wednesday, 10 December

I reserve the right to substitute a graded homework assignment for any quiz.

Quizzes will be worth 10 points each. At the end of the semester your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped, so quizzes will contribute 100 points toward your final grade. No cell phones or other devices with wireless capabilities will be allowed during quizzes.

Make-up quizzes will not be given except in unusual circumstances.

I will give challenge problems about twice a week. These problems will go beyond regular homework problems and will require creativity and insight. They are optional, but will be worth one extra credit point each.

Project

A group project will be assigned on Monday, 6 October, and will be due on Friday, 14 November. The project contributes 50 points toward your final grade. More information about the project will be given later.

Quality expectations for submitted work

Submitted work (including graded homework assignments, challenge problems, and especially the project) is expected to meet certain minimum standards for quality. Work which does not meet the following standards will not be accepted.

- Be academically honest. You are welcome to work with other students in the class, but never put your name on work that is not yours or work you do not understand. Include a list of the people (if any) with whom you worked on the assignment; provide a list of sources other than the textbook (if any) that you used to do the assignment; and state clearly that you are copying or mimicking an example from the book in order to do the assignment (if appropriate).
- Explain, as clearly as you can, how you arrived at your answer. Use full sentences and make sure your ideas flow smoothly from the beginning to the end.
- Put your name (first and last, written legibly) in the top right-hand corner of every page you turn in. Do not include your student ID number or your Social Security number.
- Take pride in your work. Write cleanly, neatly, and legibly on full sheets of paper with no fringe. If you make a mistake, do not scribble it out, but erase it cleanly. This probably means you should use a pencil.
- Leave enough blank space on each page for me to write comments.
- Turn in problems in order, with the problems clearly labeled. You may find it helpful to do each problem on its own page, so that you can arrange the pages in order when you are finished.
- Use only one side of each sheet of paper, especially if you write in ink.
- If you turn in more than one sheet of paper, staple the pages together.

Exams

There will be four 50-minute exams, which will be given on Friday, 12 September; Friday, 3 October; Friday, 24 October; and Tuesday, 25 November. (These dates are also given in the syllabus.) You may use a calculator on the exams, but you may not use any notes. No cell phones or other devices with wireless capabilities will be allowed during exams.

The four 50-minute exams are worth 100 points each. If you are unsatisfied with your score on an exam, you may retake one exam during the Fifteenth Week (8–12 December).

The final exam will be given on Monday, 15 December, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. *Keep this time open*—the final exam will not be given at any other time except in very exceptional circumstances. The final exam is worth 200 points.

Gateway exam

The gateway exam will be given on Friday, 31 October. The gateway exam consists of 10 questions which test your knowledge of concepts such as solving equations, working with graphs of functions, understanding inequalities, and evaluating basic trigonometric functions. There is no partial credit given on questions on the gateway exam. You must get eight questions completely right in order to pass.

You are not allowed to use any items other than a pencil and scratch paper on the gateway exam. In particular, calculators and notes are not allowed. Cell phones and other devices with wireless capabilities must be turned off.

If you do not pass the gateway exam when it is given in class, you may retake it as often as you like (but no more than once per day) in the Arts & Sciences Online Testing Center in Burnett Hall 127 or the Math Lab in Avery Hall 18 until you do pass. Bring your student ID; this is a proctored computerized exam. The deadline for passing the gateway exam is Thursday, 4 December. If you have to retake the exam, do not wait until the last minute! It is very much to your advantage to pass the gateway exam when it is given in class, so that you do not have to worry about retaking it.

When you pass the gateway exam you will be given 100 points toward your final grade.

More information about the gateway exam, including hours for the testing centers, is available online at http://www.math.unl.edu/resources/undergraduate/gateway_exams/. A practice gateway exam, which can be taken as many times as you like from any computer, is available at <http://calculus.unl.edu/edu/classes/math103practice/>.

Grading

Points will be allotted in the following manner.

	Each	Total
Quizzes/homework	10	100
Project		50
Exams	100	400
Gateway exam		100
Final exam		200
Total		850

Your final grade for this course will be determined according to the following scale.

[825, ∞)	A+	4.00
[791, 825)	A	4.00
[765, 791)	A–	3.67
[740, 765)	B+	3.33
[706, 740)	B	3.00
[680, 706)	B–	2.67
[655, 680)	C+	2.33
[621, 655)	C	2.00
[595, 621)	C–	1.67
[570, 595)	D+	1.33
[536, 570)	D	1.00
[510, 536)	D–	0.67
[0, 510)	F	0.00

The minimum passing grade is a C (621 points or more). If you are taking this course for a pass/no pass grade, you must get a C or better to receive a grade of “pass”. A grade of C– is not a passing grade under math department policies and will not allow you to move on to Math 106.

Resources

In this room are many excellent resources for you: the other students. Working with other students will help you and help the others.

I am also very happy to help you. As a math instructor, my goal—my job—is to see you excel in math! Because time is limited, it will be difficult or impossible to answer all of your questions during the lecture itself. Please see me during my office hours if you have unanswered questions or if you just would like to talk in greater detail about a topic we have covered. The best way to contact me is by e-mail, but you are welcome to stop by my office at any time. Of course, I cannot guarantee I will be available outside my office hours unless you have made an appointment.

The Math Resource Center in Avery Hall 13B is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m.; on Fridays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; and on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. You are encouraged to visit the MRC if you have questions related to this course, or as a place to meet with your classmates outside class time.

The math department maintains a list of people who have expressed interest in working as a private tutor. You can get a copy of this list from the department office in Avery Hall 203.

Please make sure that your Blackboard account is active (<http://my.unl.edu/>) and that you are enrolled in the class. Your grades will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester. You will not receive a grade for this class if you are not enrolled!