

## Math 101 Section 017 - College Algebra

Fall 2009- TR 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m. MABL 234

Instructor: Joe Geisbauer

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Office Hours:

Monday:

Tuesday: 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.-10:20 a.m.

Thursday: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m.-10:20 a.m., 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Things that will help you succeed:

**Reading:** Reading the textbook before coming to lecture is expected. This will clarify the lecture and give you the opportunity to think of questions before starting the homework. Reading a math textbook is different from reading textbooks from any other class. The first thing you will notice is that it takes longer to read a math textbook than any other textbook. This is normal! Also, textbooks have lots of examples and only a few details. When reading a math textbook, one should always use scratch paper to work through the details that are left out in the text.

**Homework:** Your graded homework is completed on MathXL. You should however write down your work and solution on a sheet of paper for every problem you work on MathXL as practice for the exam. Learning how to present your work and solution to a math problem can be frustrating. Rather than losing these points on exams, I am requiring you to turn in a few written solutions to MathXL homework questions. This is discussed further in the latter section labeled homework. This will allow me to give you feedback on written work before the exam and quizzes are to be taken.

**Short Presentation:** Each day, one of you will be responsible for a 1-2 minute presentation. You will simply tell the class what we covered the past lecture and what we will be covering during the lecture that day. You should just state the main concepts we covered and maybe a few of the humorous things that happened, e.g. For some reason Joe was standing on a desk teaching and almost fell getting down. Be considerate of your classmates when considering what is appropriate to declare as humorous. Should you miss the class for which you are planned to give the short presentation, you will be responsible for the presentation after the day you return.

**Help Resources:** There are many options for help or tutoring. As soon as you start to struggle, please start getting help right away so that you do not fall too far behind. Students many times want tutors, but I encourage you to use a few resources you have already paid for through the university. My office hours are a great time to get one-on-one help. I will be more than willing to try and set up an appointment outside of office hours to meet with you if you are unavailable during all of my office hours. I do require notice 24 hours in advance. Please be courteous if I am unable to accommodate you sometimes, as my schedule may be

full. I will do my best though. If you schedule an appointment outside of my office hours and fail to show without advanced notice (12 hours), I will not reschedule the appointment. You can also receive help in the Math Resource Center in Avery Hall 13B. It is open 40 hours a week.

#### Requirements:

**Attendance:** Math courses progressively build upon previous material presented in the semester. Thus, attendance in a math course is essential to your success in the course overall. For this reason, I do keep track of attendance; however, I will not give a grade for attendance. Should you miss a day, it is your responsibility to get the notes for that class from a classmate or myself, learn the material, and complete the online homework on time. I will answer questions you might have on the notes, but I will not give another lecture over the material.

**Calculator:** You **cannot** use a TI-89 or TI-92 in this course. I recommend using the TI-83 as it will be what I use in the course and will be most familiar with. You can however use a TI-84, TI-85, or TI-86 as well.

**Homework:** On your syllabus is a list of homework problems from the textbook. These are suggested homework problems and will prepare you for the online homework. Your graded homework is completed on MathXL. The webpage is [www.mathxl.com](http://www.mathxl.com). Tuesday's homework will become available at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and be unavailable after 8:00 a.m. on the following Friday. Thursday's homework will become available at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday and will become unavailable at 8:00 a.m. on the following Wednesday. **THIS SEMESTER, MATHXL HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE REOPENED DURING THE 15<sup>th</sup> WEEK. IT MUST BE COMPLETED ON TIME!** You must provide yourself accurate time to complete this homework and ask questions. In order to help you improve your presentation of answers for exams, I will require you to work certain MathXL problems on a sheet of paper and hand in to me. There will be a possible 5 points per problem. I will collect between 20 and 25 questions throughout the semester. When calculating your grade, this portion will have 75 possible points. You should, however, do this for every problem you work on MathXL as practice for the exam.

**Quizzes:** We will have a quiz every Tuesday, except on test days. This includes the Tuesday of the 15<sup>th</sup> Week. I will drop your 2 lowest quiz scores. You will not be able to make-up a missed quiz. It will count as one of your scores to drop. Each quiz will be worth 10 points each. At the end of the semester, I will calculate your quiz percentage and use this for your quiz score; i.e. if you earned a 97% average on your quizzes, your quiz score would be 97/100.

**Tests:** All hour exams will be given on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m.-7:00p.m. on the dates listed below (locations will be announced in class):

Hour Exam I- Tuesday, Sept. 22

Hour Exam II-Tuesday, Oct. 13

Hour Exam III-Tuesday, Nov. 10

Hour Exam IV-Tuesday, Dec. 1

Each exam is worth 100 points. Prior notice is **REQUIRED** if an exam cannot be taken on the schedule with the class. Make-up exams will only be scheduled with prior approval from me and must be taken the following morning (Wednesday) at 7:15 a.m. (location given by the instructor). Documentation of excuse may be required for a make-up exam to be approved.

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (location announced the 15<sup>th</sup> Week)

The final is comprehensive. Any student unable to take the final exam at the above time must obtain permission from Lori Mueller in Avery 203 before the 15<sup>th</sup> Week to take an alternate final. Under **NO** circumstance will an alternate final be given before the original final.

**Point Scale:** In the table below, I have listed each of the major sections that will contribute to your grade and how many points they will be worth:

<b>TASK</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
4 Hour Exams	400
Comprehensive Final Exam	200
Quizzes	100
MathXL Homework	100
Written Homework	75
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Total Points	875

**Evaluation Scale:** (in percentages)

A+	96-100	B+	86-88	C+	76-78	D+	66-68	F	below 60
A	92-95	B	82-85	C	72-75	D	62-65		
A-	89-91	B-	79-81	C-	69-71	D-	60-61		

Students taking the course Pass/No Pass must earn at least a C (72% or better) to receive credit for Math 101 and take a subsequent class at UNL; a C- will not allow you to earn a Pass or qualify for a subsequent course.

**Academic Integrity:** I will abide strictly to the school's guidelines for Academic Integrity. Plagiarism on any assignment, copying on any assignment, and/or the use of prohibited devices on quizzes and exams (ipod, phones, unauthorized calculator) may all result in either a zero on the assignment, failure of the course, and/or dismissal from the University. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Mathematics Department and the Judicial Affairs Committee. The punishment given doesn't depend on how well you benefited from the act, but will be based on the intentions you had for performing the act. For this reason, please leave all cell phones, ipods, books, and notes inside a backpack with a zipper for quizzes and exams. If you do not have a bag with a zipper, you must leave cell phones and ipods inside pants pockets. Books and notes must be completely shut and stored underneath your desk in a fashion so that nothing can be read.

**Departmental Grade Appeals Policy:** If you believe your grade was assigned incorrectly or capriciously, then appeals may be made to (in order) the instructor, the department chair, the department grading appeals committee, the college grading appeals committee, and the university grading appeals committee.

**Students with Disabilities:** I will be more than happy to accommodate students with disabilities, but you must first register with Services for Students with Disabilities (132 Canfield Administration Building). They will then present you with a form to bring to me that will enable us to agree upon the type of help needed. This is university policy and we must abide by it.