

MATH 140 - College Algebra Fall 2009 - Section K2

Instructor: David Failing

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Lecture: MWF 9:00-9:50 in Carver 274

Office Hours: MWF 9:50-10:50, W 1:00-2:00pm

Course Description

Prerequisites: Satisfactory performance on placement exam, 2 years of high school algebra; 1 year of high school geometry. *Topics:* Coordinate geometry, complex numbers, quadratic and polynomial equations, functions, graphing, linear, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, inverse functions, linear inequalities, series and sequences.

Required Text

Algebra & Trigonometry (8th edition) by Michael Sullivan, Pearson Prentice-Hall, ISBN 978-0132329033.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

You are expected to attend and participate in all classes; however, attendance will not be taken. Missing three or more class meetings will seriously hinder your performance in the course. If you know that you will be absent from class on a quiz or exam day, contact the instructor with your documented excuse at least 3 *class* days prior so that arrangements may be made for you to take the test prior to the scheduled date. Only absences for school-related activities such as athletic or other competitions, family emergencies, or illness will be excused. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to catch up on missed work; borrow notes from a friend, and seek help outside of class for material you don't understand.

Academic Dishonesty

All quizzes and exams will be proctored, closed-book, and closed-note; the use of cheat sheets, note-cards, or misrepresenting the work of another student as your own are serious offenses in any academic setting and will not be tolerated. If cheating occurs, you will be assigned a zero for the assignment in question and referred to the Dean of Students office; additional consequences will occur for repeated offenses.

Daily Homework

Each day I will assign homework problems from the text to correspond with the section we have just discussed. They will not be collected for a grade, but you are expected to keep up on the problems as they are assigned. At the beginning of each class, there will be a few minutes for homework questions. You are also encouraged to work together on the homework problems. If you have a lot of difficulty with a particular assignment, you should seek additional help outside of class. To learn mathematics, it is essential to *do* mathematics; it is also essential to *ask questions*. You *will* have questions, and that's okay. Mathematics can be difficult, but it doesn't have to be impossible.

Evaluation

Your grade will be based on three unit exams, the departmental final examination, and weekly 20-minute quizzes every Friday (except during exam weeks). Only your 10 best quiz scores will be counted in your final grade. There will be a WebCT section for the course, where you will be able to check your grades, as well as access any additional materials I might post. The grading scale below represents the *minimum* score cutoff for a given letter grade range; for instance, a final score of 85% will

guarantee at least a grade of B but may be higher.

Quizzes	10 × 20 points	A	90-100%
Unit Exams	3 × 100 points	B	80-89%
Final Exam	200 points	C	70-79%
Total	700 points	D	60-69%
		F	below 60%

Calculator Policy

Calculators are not allowed on the departmental final exam; as such, they will not be permitted on any quizzes or exams during class, and you are discouraged from using them in your daily work. All of the problems we will be working on may be solved without the use of a calculator, and using a calculator on your homework will not adequately prepare you for the departmental final.

Help

There are several ways for you to seek assistance with the course material. First, ask questions in class: I guarantee that at least one other student in the class will have the same question, so you will not only be helping yourself, but your peers as well. Second, you can come to office hours. I only list 4 hours per week, but if those don't work, e-mail me to make an appointment at some other time. Lastly, and certainly not least, is the math help room in Carver 385. The help room is staffed by graduate (and sometimes advanced undergraduate) students who are happy to help you with questions about the material. Generally the help room is open M-F 9am-5pm, but you can check <http://www.math.iastate.edu/For/MathHelp.html> for the most up-to date schedule. There are certainly other options (outside tutors, etc.), but these are the best.

Special Needs

Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Disability Resources (DR) office (515-294-6624). DR is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.

Withdrawal From The Course

Should it become necessary for you to withdraw from the course, whether for academic or personal reasons, it is your responsibility to contact Student Services and complete the proper forms. The last day to drop a course without the drop appearing on your permanent record or counting toward your limit of dropped courses is Friday, August 28. The last day to drop full-semester courses or withdraw without extenuating circumstances is Friday, October 30. All other important deadlines for the University may be found at <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~registrar/calendar/cal-fall09.shtml>.