

MATH 140 - College Algebra Summer 2012 - Section A

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Lecture: MTWRF 9:50-10:50 in Carver 0282

Office Hours: MR 1:00-1:50, TW 9:00-9:50

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 (9th edition) by Michael Sullivan, Pearson Prentice-Hall, ISBN 978-0321716569
This is the book you will use if you take Math 141 or 142 as well. The MyMathLab Student Access Kit is NOT required. This course will not use MyMathLab.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

You are expected to attend and participate in all classes; however, attendance will not be taken. Missing several class meetings will seriously hinder your performance in the course. If you know that you will be absent from class on an 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 material; borrow notes from a friend, and seek help outside of class for material you don't understand. Late work will not be accepted for any other reasons.

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 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. If you have to ask yourself if what you are doing would be considered cheating, then it probably is.

Course Homepage

The course home page is <http://dfailing.public.iastate.edu/m140su12a/>. I have posted the expected schedule, the homework assignments for the entire semester, and a copy of this syllabus. I might also post solutions to select homework problems, exams, or other valuable resources. Check back regularly for announcements and updates.

Daily Homework

Daily homework will be assigned, and collected each Friday for a grade (based on both completion and accuracy). In a summer course it is imperative that you keep up on the problems assigned each day - they represent the *minimum* amount of problems you should work. You should expect to spend at least **2 hours** for each class day reading the section and working problems. At the beginning of each class, there will be a few minutes for homework questions. You are encouraged to work together and discuss the homework problems, however each student will be expected to turn in their own work.

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.

Here is one way of approaching the homework:

1. Read the section before attempting the homework to familiarize yourself with definitions, theorems, symbols, etc.
2. Work out the practice problems from the section.
3. Attempt the assigned problems. If you get a solution check with the back of the book or if the answer is not provided double check your work. If you cannot determine a solution:
 - (a) Make sure you understand the definitions and symbols in the problem.
 - (b) Try a problem that looks similar/easier (e.g. If you can't solve problem 9 try problem 7 or 8).
 - (c) See if any of the examples in the corresponding section are similar.
 - (d) Look at the solution and try to work backwards.
 - (e) Give it a break and come back to it later, maybe a future problem will help you solve this problem.
 - (f) If all else fails ask a friend/math tutor/your instructor for help.
4. Remember: knowing why a method works is as important as knowing how/when to use it.

Evaluation

Your grade will be based on three unit exams and weekly graded homework assignments. The tentative exam dates are on Tuesdays, **June 26**, **July 10**, and **July 24**, with a review day before each one. This will allow you to receive feedback on homework and ask additional questions on unit topics prior to exam day. 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.

Assignment	Value	
Unit Exams	3×100 points	A 90-100%
Homework	8×25 points	B 80-89%
Total	500 points	C 70-79%
		D 60-69%
		F below 60%

Calculator Policy

Calculators will not be permitted on any quizzes or exams during class, and you are discouraged from using them in your daily work unless absolutely necessary. All of the problems we will be working on for a grade may be solved without the use of a calculator. They are a valuable tool for *difficult* computations, but they should not be a crutch – relying too heavily on calculators will diminish your understanding of the material.

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 a few 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/pdfs/MHRschedule.pdf> 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. No retroactive accommodations will be provided in this class.

Withdrawl 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 Summer 2012 course without the drop appearing on your permanent record or counting toward your limit of dropped courses is Friday, June 15. The last day to drop or withdraw without extenuating circumstances is Monday, July 16. All other important deadlines for the University may be found at <http://www.registrar.iastate.edu/calendar/cal-summer12.shtml>