

# Syllabus for Math 250

Arithmetic:  
from ancient farmers  
with spare time  
to the present day



**Instructor:** Mr. Robert Gutierrez

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**Office location:** FEM 1 (Math Center)

**Office hours:** To be announced

**Textbook:** Tom Carson. Prealgebra, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

**Campus:** Reedley College

**Course number:** 56118 Fall semester 2010

**Classroom:** AGR 15

**Class times:** Mon, Wed, and Fri  
12:00 pm. to 12:50pm.

## Cheating and Plagiarism:

- A student receives zero credit for the assignment or test if the instructor believes the student has cheated or plagiarized.
- In short, do not cheat nor plagiarize!!!

## Student behavior:

- Silence or turn off your cellphone or any device before entering and during class.
- Do not text message with your cellphone or any device during class. This request is redundant since you cannot use your cellphone or device during class anyway.
- Please do not arrive late to class.
- Please do not leave class early.
- Please do not eat nor drink in class except for water.
- Be considerate and polite to others.
- You may not study for another class or read a book, newspaper, magazines, etc. during class.
- Please no guests in the classroom.
- In short, be polite.

## Attendance and Participation:

- Students are expected to attend **all** class meetings, be in class at 11:55am, and be in class the **entire** class time.
- **Four** absences may result in a drop by the instructor from the course during the first nine weeks.
- Being late twice counts as one absence.
- Leaving class early will be counted as an absence.
- Dense fog is not a valid excuse during the winter months. Drive carefully and slowly by leaving early.
- Contacting me about a future absence does not excuse the absence unless the absence is related to a school-related activity, family emergency, or some other valid reason.
- Not being present during class for an unnecessary amount of time, determined by the instructor, may be counted as an absence or an emergency.
- Not participating in class by not responding to questions, ignoring the instructor, or any other undesirable behavior shows an unwillingness to learn and/or study previous math knowledge. This behavior may cause the student to be dropped from the course by the instructor.
- If you decide to drop the course, it is your responsibility to make the drop official in the Administrations and Records office or else possibly receive a grade of F.



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### Homework:

- Homework is usually assigned **DAILY**. It may or not be turned in for a grade. In other words, there is always some idea to study.
- Homework should take about less than two or three hours of consistent thinking and/or trial-and-error.
- Homework is graded in one of two ways. One way is by completeness and effort; it receives full, half, or zero credit. The other way is by completeness, understanding, and effort.
- **LATE HOMEWORK IS NOT ACCEPTED** and it receives a **ZERO** grade!!!! Homework is considered late if it is not placed in the instructor's folder by the beginning of class.
- Collectively, all homework assignments are worth 20% of the total grade.

### Homework format:

If you do not follow these instructions, then the homework assignment receives a **ZERO** grade.

- Homework will be written legibly, look neatly, and be organized in a certain way.
- Write the homework with a sharpen pencil (preferably a mechanical pencil) or with **ONLY** a black or blue pen. I highly recommend that the student writes the homework with pencil since one cannot generally erase ink.
- You will use standard 8.5in. by 11in. sheets of blank or lined paper (no spiral paper accepted) and be **STAPLED** in the upper left-hand corner. NOTE: staples are not always provided by the instructor.
- I want homework organized in a certain way and only one way. These instructions are provided by the instructor and are located online in "blackboard" where homework is assigned.
- Show all appropriate work for each problem. Only writing an answer may result in **ZERO** credit.

### Tests:

- There are about **five** regular in class tests. This number may change throughout the semester. These tests will take either half or the whole class time.
- The lowest test score (only among the regular tests) will not be used in the final grade.
- Cellphones or any other similar electronic devices are **NOT** allowed during any test. If you use one during any test, then you will receive a zero for the test.
- Calculator are **NOT** used during a test.
- If a student must **absolutely** be absent on any test day, then discuss taking the test at another time with the instructor.
- **THE FINAL TEST WILL BE CUMULATIVE AND MUST BE ATTENDED AS SCHEDULED.**
- The final test will be used in the final grade.
- You do not need to buy "blue books" or any similar things. The test will be provided by the instructor.
- Even though the instructor wants tests on Thursdays, it may not happen and can occur on any day of the week.
- Collectively, all tests are worth 80% of the total grade.



### Why you are in this class?

- Learn the importance of arithmetic and how they lead to the beginnings of algebra.
- To understand the basics of arithmetic and how many of the procedures one encounters in arithmetic work.
- Be prepared for more advanced algebra and other branches of mathematics.
- Learn how to think critically, rationally, sequentially, and meticulously in a safe environment.
- Learn how to solve problems in a safe environment.
- Learn that math problems are **not** solved in one, quick, easy, and painless way.

### Course Goals:

- Apply and learn at least one rational behind the four arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) to problems involving whole numbers.
- Apply and learn at least one rational behind the four arithmetic operations to problems involving fractional numbers.
- Apply and learn at least one rational behind the four arithmetic operations to problems involving decimal numbers.
- Apply and learn at least one rational behind the four arithmetic operations to problems involving mixed-numbers.
- Apply and learn at least one rational behind the four arithmetic operations to problems involving negative numbers.
- Learn about exponents involving whole numbers.
- How to organize (order of operations) a huge calculation involving the previous six bullets.
- Learn about solving a linear equation of one variable.

### Class structure:

#### Class notes:

Your instructor believes paying attention in class is more important than purely writing notes and not understanding what one is writing. However, writing class notes is important. Consequently, class notes are provided by the instructor (to the best of his ability) to unsure that note taking is less of a chore and to increase the student's ability to pay more attention during class. However, these provided notes are **not complete**. The student must attend class to understand what mathematical ideas the notes convey. Keep in mind, the student should still bring paper to class.

#### Class format:

Your instructor believes more in active learning than in passive learning. Only sitting and barely thinking about the math presented in class will most likely result in a poorer understanding of the material which will cause lower grades. Thus, your instructor will ask questions during class to encourage a class dialogue. We are all in the same boat when learning mathematics.

### Important Dates:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| • Monday, September 6:   | Labor Day (no class)                      |
| • Friday, October 15:    | Last day to drop the class                |
| • Thursday, November 11: | Veteran's Day (no class)                  |
| • November 25 and 26:    | Thanksgiving (no classes)                 |
| • Friday, December 10:   | Last day of class                         |
| • Monday, December 13    | Final test at 12:00pm to 1:50pm in AGR 15 |

