

Elementary Algebra

MATH 101-56709

Mr. Steven Zook

Email: steven.zook@reedleycollege.edu

Reedley College

Fall 2009

Meeting Room: FEM 4

Meeting Days: Daily, M-F

Meeting Time: 7:00 am – 7:50 am

Course Description: This is a first course in elementary algebra including: algebraic expressions, linear equations and inequalities, linear equations and inequalities in two variables, exponents and polynomials, factoring and rational expressions.

Basic Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENGL 126

Subject Prerequisites: MATH 250 or equivalent or 257

Required Text: Charles P. McKeague, **Elementary and Intermediate Algebra**, Thomson Brooks/Cole, 3rd Edition, 2008.

Office Hours: I will not be holding office hours. However, I want to be available to you if you need assistance outside of class. I may be able to stay after class for a pre-arranged meeting. Do not hesitate to ask for help – it's what I am here for.

Attendance: As a student, you are expected to attend all classes for the entire period. Please be on time and ready to start when class is scheduled to begin. I ask this out of respect for your classmates and me. **Ten (10) absences** may result in a drop from the course. If you decide to drop, it is your responsibility to drop the class officially through the Administration and Records office. In failing to do so, you run the risk of receiving a grade of F.

Classroom Behavior: Please take care of any personal responsibilities and needs before entering the classroom. Please **TURN OFF** your phones when entering the class. They should be off for the duration of the class period. While you are in class, I expect you to participate and pay attention. You may not work on the homework in class or prepare for a different class. Please notify me in advance if you plan on bringing a guest to class.

Drop Deadline: Friday, October 16th

Final Exam Date and Time: Friday December 18th, 7:00 am – 8:50 am, FEM 4

Homework: Homework will be due weekly at the beginning of class. Any homework turned in after the beginning of class will be considered late. The homework assignment will be posted in advance as a pdf file on Blackboard. Please download and print to use as your cover sheet, stapled to the work you turn in. All homework will be graded on

completeness and neatness in addition to accuracy. Please write out each problem before solving it, make sure you show all work and box-in or underline each answer. **NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.** This holds true even if you are absent. If you know you will be absent on the due date, turn in your homework in advance if you wish to receive credit. I can make no exceptions because I will be posting solutions the day it is due.

Exams: There will be exams on the dates listed in the course outline below. These dates will not change regardless of topic we have reached at the time. The week of the exam no homework will be due.

Final Exam: The final exam will be held during finals week on **Friday, December 18th** in room FEM 4. It will be comprehensive and you are required to take the exam. If it is in your best interest I will replace your lowest test score with your final exam score.

Grading Policy: I will use the following grading scheme:

| <u>Weighting:</u> | <u>Letter Grade Assignment:</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Homework: 20% | A: 90% - 100% |
| Exams: 60% (20% each) | B: 80% - 89% |
| Final Exam: 20% | C: 70% - 79% |
| | D: 60% - 69% |
| | F: 0% - 59% |

Finding your Grade: I will be updating you grades regularly on Blackboard. You will be able to view your progress there.

SPECIAL NEEDS REQUESTS: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty: Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences (Reedley College Catalog, pg 46).

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor's permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely (Reedley College Catalog, pg 46).

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents (Reedley College Catalog, pg 46).

Course Objectives: While completing this course, students will:

- 1) use the basic operations on the set of Real numbers.
- 2) solve linear equations and inequalities.
- 3) use a variety of methods to solve systems of linear equations.
- 4) develop and apply rules to perform operations on powers.
- 5) multiply and divide monomials and polynomials.
- 6) investigate rules for factoring polynomials.
- 7) perform operations on rational expressions.

Course Outcomes: After completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) solve linear equations and inequalities.
- 2) solve systems of linear equations by graphing and by the methods of elimination and substitution.
- 3) find binomial squares and other special products.
- 4) divide a polynomial by a polynomial using long-division.
- 5) factor a variety of polynomials, including: trinomials, differences of two squares, and the sums and differences of two cubes.
- 6) reduce rational expressions to lowest terms.
- 7) solve equations involving rational expressions.

Course Outline and Schedule

Week of Aug. 17th – 21st: Begin Chapter 1: Operations with Real Numbers

Week of Aug. 24th – 28th: **Homework 1** due on Wednesday, Aug. 26th

Week of Aug. 31st – Sept. 4th: Begin Chapter 2: Linear Equations and Inequalities
Homework 2 due on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd

Week of Sept. 7th – 11th: NO CLASS Monday Sept. 7th (Labor Day)
Homework 3 due on Wednesday, Sept. 9th

Week of Sept. 14th – 18th: **EXAM 1 on Wednesday, Sept. 16th**

Begin Chapter 3: Graphing Linear Equations and Solving Systems of Equations

Week of Sept. 21st – 25th: **Homework 4** due on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd

Week of Sept. 28th – Oct. 2nd: **Homework 5** due on Wednesday, Sept. 30th

Week of Oct. 5th – 9th: Begin Chapter 4: Exponents and Polynomials
Homework 6 due on Wednesday, Oct. 7th

Week of Oct. 12th – 16th: **Homework 7** due on Wednesday, Oct. 14th
Last day to drop a semester length course Friday, Oct 16th

Week of Oct. 19th – 23rd: **EXAM 2 on Wednesday, Oct. 21st**
Begin Chapter 5: Factoring Polynomials

Week of Nov. 2nd – 6th: **Homework 8** due on Wednesday, Nov 4th

Week of Nov. 9th – 13th: Begin Chapter 6: Rational Expressions
Homework 9 due on **Tuesday, Nov 10th**
NO CLASS Wednesday, Nov 11th (Veterans' Day)

Week of Nov. 16th – 20th: **Homework 10** due on Wednesday, Nov 19th

Week of Nov. 23rd – 27th: **EXAM 3 on Wednesday, Nov. 25th**
NO CLASSES Thursday Nov. 26th – Friday Nov. 27th
(Thanksgiving)

Week of Nov. 30th – Dec. 4th: Begin Chapter 7: Solving Compound Inequalities and Absolute Value Equations and Inequalities
Homework 11 due on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd

Week of Dec. 7th – 11th: **Homework 12** due on Wednesday, Dec. 9th

Week of Dec. 14th – 18th: **Finals Week**
Comprehensive FINAL EXAM on Friday Dec. 18th
from 7:00 – 8:50 am in room FEM 4

I will do my best to follow the schedule content-wise depending on how quickly we can cover the topics. However, the events in bold will take place on their specified dates.