Math 101

Beginning Algebra:
from ancient farmers
with spare time
to René Descartes

Instructor: Mr. Robert Gutierrez

Email: robert.gutierrez@reedleycollege.edu

Office location: FEM 1 (Math Center)

Office hours: To be announced

Campus: Reedley College

Course number: 56826   Spring semester 2010

Classroom: CCI 200

Class times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1:00 pm. to 2:20pm.

Textbook: C.P. McKeague. Elementary and Intermediate Algebra, A Combined Course, 3rd Edition

Prerequisites: Math 250 or equivalent or 256   **Basic Skills Advisories:** Eligibility for ENGL 126

Cheating and Plagiarism:
- Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.
- A student will receive no credit for an assignment if in the opinion of the instructor the individual has cheated or plagiarized.

Class 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 nor leave 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.

Attendance and Participation:
- Students are expected to attend <u>all</u> class meetings, be in class at about 1:55pm., and be in class the <u>entire</u> class time.
- *Four* absences may result in a drop by the instructor from the course during the first nine weeks.
- Two tardies count as one absence.
- Leaving class before the end of class will be counted as an absence.
- Contacting me about a future absence does not excuse the absence unless the absence is related to a school-related activity.
- Not being present during class for an unnecessary amount of time, determined by the instructor, may be counted as an absence or an emergency.
- 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.

© Thaves/Dist. by NEA, Inc.

Homework:
- Homework is usually assigned **DAILY** and will be due at 2:00pm usually the next class day.
- Each homework assignment is comprised of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 sets of problems that are of similar difficulty and type.
- Each set will have the same number of problems.
- Only **ONE** set is turned in and graded.
- Homework will be graded in one of two ways. One way is by completeness and effort. It will receive full, half, or zero credit. The other way is by completeness, understanding, and effort. The score is out of 100 points.
- One, two, or three makeup assignments will be offered every chapter. A makeup assignment is determined by the instructor.
- 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 2:00pm.
- Collectively, all homework assignments are worth 30% of the total grade.

Homework format:

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

- Each set will be written legibly, look neatly, and be organized in a certain way.
- You will 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.
- Each set will be 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 *nine* regular tests and *one* final test.
- One or two of the lowest test scores (only among the first nine tests) will not be used in the final grade.
- Calculators, cellphones, or any other electronic devices are **NOT** allowed during any test.
- If a student must *__absolutely__* be absent on a test day, then discuss taking the test early 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.
- Collectively, all tests are worth 70% of the total grade.

Why you are in this class?
- Learn the importance of arithmetic and how they lead to the beginnings of algebra.
- 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.
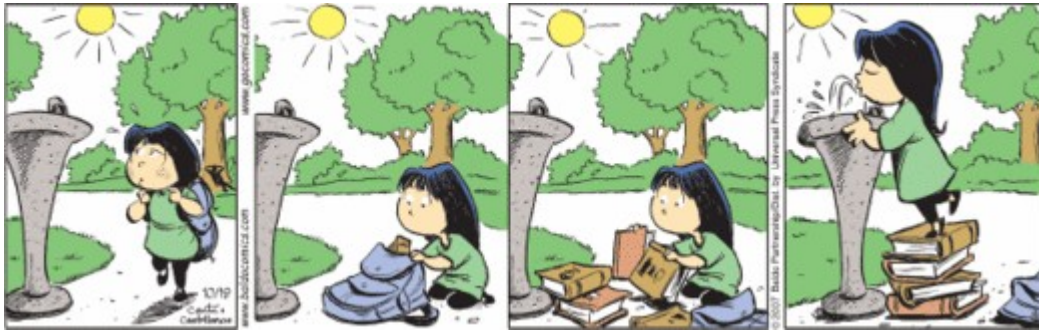
Course Goals:
- add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers, fractions, decimals and polynomials.
- factor polynomials.
- simplify and expand rational expressions.
- graph linear equations of two variables, quadratic equations, and inequalities of one variable.
- solve linear and quadratic equations, equations containing rational expressions, and systems of linear equations.
- set up, understand, and solve application problems with skills acquired from the previous goals.

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 <u>must</u> attend class to understand what mathematical ideas the notes convey. Although, 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, January 18:   Martin Luther King Jr. day (no class)
- Friday, February 12:   Lincoln's Birthday (no class)
- Monday, February 15:   Washington's Birthday (no class)
- Friday, March 12:   Last day to drop the course
- Monday March 29 through Friday April 2 :   Easter vacation (no class)
- Friday, May 14:   Last day of class
- Wednesday, May 19:   1:00pm to 2:50pm: Final Exam in classroom CCI 200

Class materials:
- Blank or lined paper
- Mechanical or wooden pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil sharpener if you use wooden pencils
- Three-ring binder
- Small stapler with extra staples
- Graph paper (this will only be needed in November and December)
- 6 in or 12 in ruler

Students with Disabilities:

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.

Grading scale: $89\% \leq A \leq 100\%$ $78\% \leq B < 89\%$ $67\% \leq C < 78\%$ $67\% \leq C < 78\%$ $0\% \leq F < 56\%$

Disclaimer: Due to time constraints and/or unforeseen circumstances during the semester, your instructor reserves the right to alter any of the above when deemed necessary for the educational welfare of the students.