## BEGINNING ALGEBRA

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Operations with signed numbers, algebraic expressions, linear equations and their graphs, inequalities, systems of equations, exponents and polynomials, factoring, and rational expressions

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion (grade of $\boldsymbol{C}$ or better) of Math 250 or eligibility as determined by the assessment process

## OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

- learn the real number system, its subsets and how to perform operations on numbers from these subsets.
- simplify algebraic expressions and solve linear equations and inequalities
- graph linear equations in two variables and solve systems of linear equations.
- simplify expressions using the properties of exponents and perform operations with polynomials.
- factor algebraic expressions and solve equations of degree greater than one.
- perform arithmetic operations on rational expressions and solve equations containing rational expressions.

TEXT: George Woodbury, Beginning \& Intermediate Algebra, 2nd Edition

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 3 -ring binder
- Binder Paper
- Pencil(s)
- Calculator
- Access Code to Course Compass
- Internet Connection: Cable/DSL, T1 or other high-speed connection. Dial-up will greatly limit the resources you will be able to access from the online courseware.


## COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS:

| With WINDOWS operating systems: | You can use these <br> browsers: |
| :--- | :--- |
| Windows 2000, Windows XP, and Windows <br> Vista $^{\text {TM }}$ | Internet Explorer 6.0 (XP Only) <br> Internet Explorer 7.0 <br> Firefox 2 <br> Firefox 3 |
| With MACINTOSH operating systems: | You can use these <br> browsers: |
| MacOSX 10.4, MacOSX 10.5 | Safari 3.1 (Recommended) <br> Firefox 2 <br> Firefox 3 |

## HOMEWORK:

Homework assignments are completed online and the assignments can be found at the Course Compass website. You may work ahead if you like; all homework for the entire chapter will be made available to the student approximately two weeks before the start of the chapter. It is important to stay current to be successful in the course! Each assignment has a due date and the assignment will be unavailable to the student after the due date. No late homework will be accepted. Online homework will account for $\mathbf{2 0 \%}$ of your grade.

Note: When working on homework, you do not have to complete an entire assignment during one session. If you need to stop while in the middle of an assignment, simply hit the Submit icon and the program will save your work. You can then come back to the assignment and continue from where you left off at another time.

## QUIZZES:

There will be one to two in-class quizzes for each chapter. These quizzes will be worth 20 points each and will be given at the beginning of class and will have a time constraint. Students who are tardy to class on the day of a quiz will not be allowed to take the quiz and receive a grade of zero for that quiz. Quizzes will account for $\mathbf{2 0 \%}$ of your grade.

## TESTS:

- Seven (7) chapter tests, worth 100 points each, will be given.
- An average score of $70 \%$ on the unit's homework is a prerequisite for the exam. If you have earned at least $\mathbf{7 0 \%}$ of the possible homework points for that unit, then whatever score you earn on your exam will be the score entered for your exam grade. If, however, you earn less than $\mathbf{7 0 \%}$ on your homework, then the average of your homework grade and your test score will be the score entered for your exam grade.
- There are NO MAKEUPS for missed tests. NO EXCEPTIONS!!
- If you absolutely must be absent on the day a test is scheduled, you may discuss with me the possibility of taking the test early.


## FINAL EXAM:

A two hour comprehensive final exam worth 200 points will be given at the end of the semester during final exams week. This final exam is mandatory and will count as a regular exam. The final may be used to replace a low test score or a missed test. The final may not be used to replace the homework grade or quiz grade.

## GRADING:

- HOMEWORK (20\%): All of your homework scores will be added up and multiplied by $\mathbf{. 2 0}$ (900 total points will be possible)
- QUIZZES (20\%): Your quiz grades will be added up and multiplied by $\mathbf{2 0}$ (140 total points will be possible)
- TESTS (60\%): All of your test percentages and the final will be added up and multiplied by . 60 (900 total points will be possible)

Example: If your homework total is 800, your quiz total is $\mathbf{1 2 0}$ and your exam and final total is 780, then you would compute your grade as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{[(.20)(800)+(.20)(120)+(.60)(780)]}{748} & =\frac{160+24+468}{748} \\
& =\frac{652}{748} \\
& =0.8716 \Rightarrow 87 \%
\end{aligned}
$$

- Your grade will then be determined by the following grading scale:

| \% Earned | Grade |
| :---: | :---: |
| $89-100$ | A |
| $78-88$ | B |
| $67-77$ | C |
| $55-66$ | D |
| $0-54$ | F |

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences, including but not limited to receiving a grade of $F$ in the course. For the college policy on cheating and plagiarism, see the college catalog.

## Important Dates:

- January 18, 2010 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no class)
- January 29, 2010 - Last day to add or to drop and avoid a "W"
- February 12-15, 2010 - Lincoln and Washington Day (no class)
- February 16, 2010 - Last day to file for Pass/No Pass grading basis
- March 12, 2010 - Last day to drop
- March 29 - April 2, 2010 - Spring Recess

> FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 19, 2010: 9:00-10:50 (FEM - 4)

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[^0]:    NOTE: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media per the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

