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

Campus: Reedley College

Course number: 56039   Spring semester 2010

Classroom: SOC 31

Class times: Tuesday, and Thursday
12:00 pm. to 1:15pm.

Textbook: Tobey, John; Slater, Jeffrey; Blair, Jamie. Essentials of Basic College Mathematics, 2nd edition

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 11:55am., 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.
- **ONE** tardy counts 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.
- 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 every class day and will be due at 12:00pm usually the next class day.
- Each homework assignment comprises of three versions of the similar type and number of problems.
- 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/or effort. The other way is by completeness, understanding, and effort.
- One or two makeup assignments may be offered between two consecutive tests. 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 12:00pm.
- 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 determined by the instructor.
- 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 posted.
- Show all appropriate work for each problem. Only writing an answer will result in **ZERO** credit.

Tests:
- There are *seven* regular tests and *one* final test.
- One of the lowest test scores (only among the first seven 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.
- 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 the four arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) to problems involving whole numbers.
- apply the four arithmetic operations to problems involving fractional numbers.
- apply the four arithmetic operations to problems involving decimal numbers.
- evaluate whole numbers raised to exponents using the definition of exponents.
- solve consumer arithmetic problems such as balancing a checkbook and calculating unit cost.
- Solve consumer arithmetic problems using ratios and proportions such as calculating measurements for a recipe
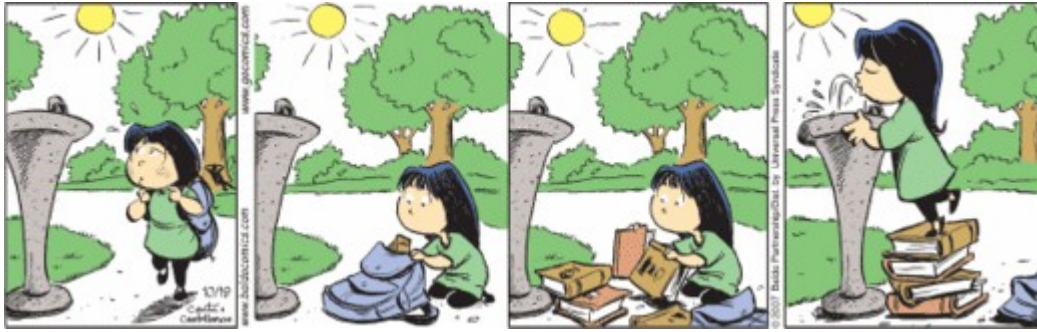
Class structure:
- **Class notes:**
  Your instructor believes paying attention in class is more important than purely writing notes and not understanding what one is writing. However, writing class notes is important. Consequently, class notes are provided by the instructor (to the best of his ability) 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. 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, 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)

- Thursday, May 13:   Last day of class
- Tuesday, May 18:   12:00pm to 1:50pm: Final Exam in classroom SOC 31

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

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.