

Math 103

*Algebra:
from al-Khwarizmi
to Argand
diagrams*



Instructor: Mr. Robert Gutierrez

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Office location: FEM 1 (Math Center)

Office hours: To be announced

Campus: Reedley College

Course number: 56720 Fall 2011

Classroom: CCI 206

Class times:

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 9:00am to 9:50am

Textbook:

George Woodbury. Elementary and Intermediate Algebra, 2dn Edition

ISBN-13: 978-0-321-50006-9

Optional Fun books:

Mario Livio. The Equation That Couldn't Be Solved.

Paul Nahin. An Imaginary Tale The Story of $\sqrt{-1}$

Isacc Asimov. Realm of Numbers a clear, imaginative approach to mathematics.

Prerequisites: Math 101 or equivalent

Basic Skills Advisories: Eligibility for Engl 126

Cheating and Plagiarism:

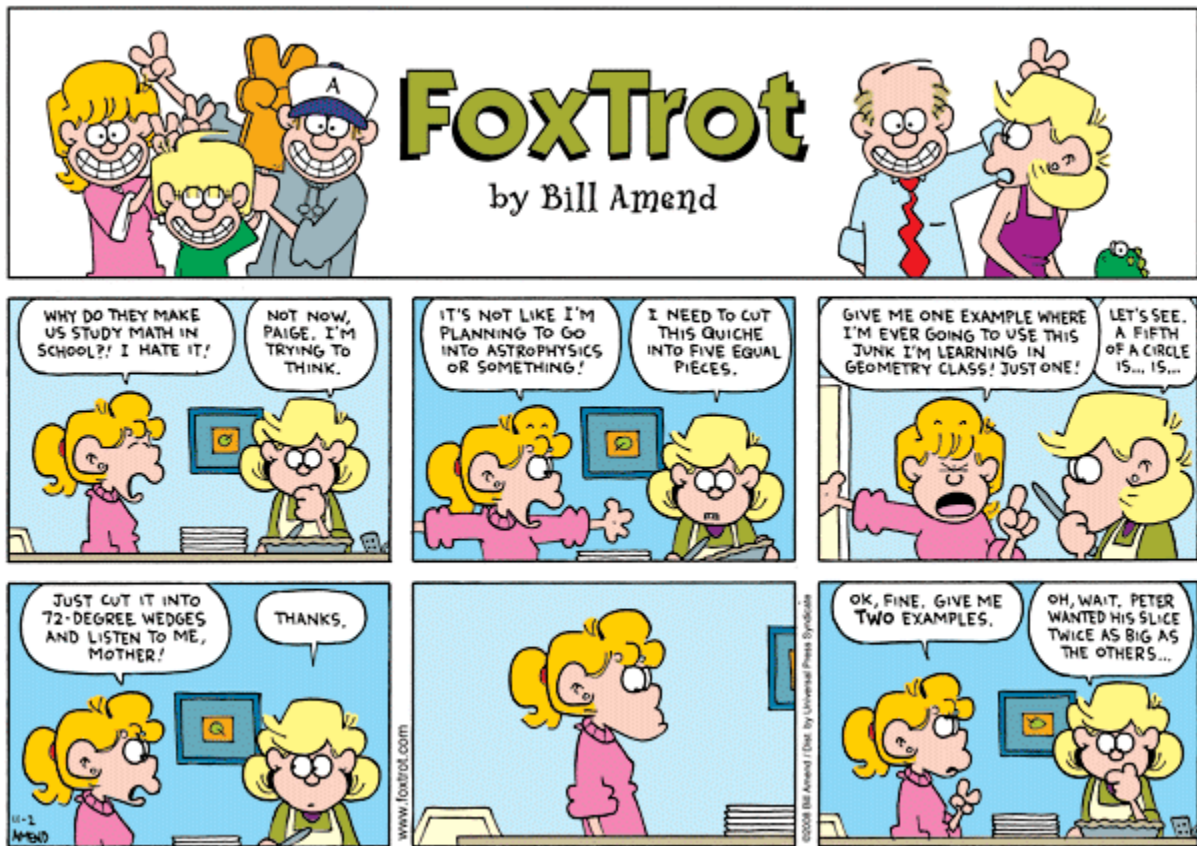
- A student will receive no credit if the instructor believes the student has cheated or plagiarized.

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 nor leave class early. If at least one student begins to arrive late to class habitually, then the instructor will lock the only door at about 9:05am.
- Please do not eat nor drink (except for water) in class.
- 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 and see page 44 in the Reedley College Catalog.

Attendance and Participation:

- Students are expected to attend by 8:55am **all** class days for their **entirety**.
- **Three** absences may result in a drop from the course by the instructor during the first nine weeks.
- Being late twice or leaving class early counts as one 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 ignoring the instructor or any other undesirable behavior shows an unwillingness to learn and 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".



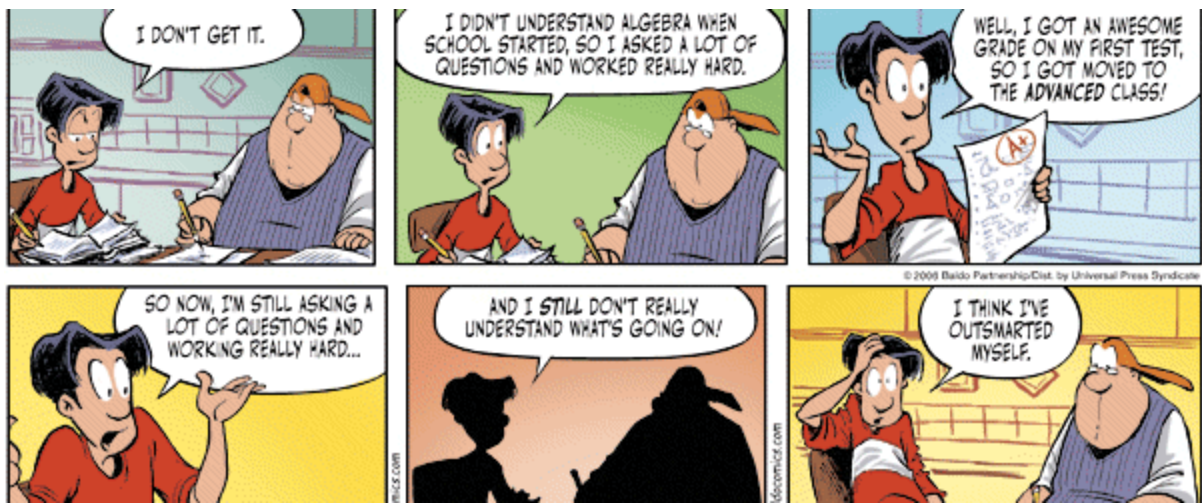
Homework:

- Homework is assigned most days and will be due at 9:00am in the next one or two class days.
- “mymathlab” or any similar paid program will NOT be used in the class. Other FREE programs provided by the instructor will be used.
- Homework will be graded by the instructor for completeness, understanding, effort, and following instructions.
- Homework will come from the textbook, the instructor, and maybe other sources.
- LATE HOMEWORK IS NOT ACCEPTED and it receives a ZERO grade if it is not placed in the instructor's folder by 9:00am.
- Collectively, all homework assignments are worth 20% of the total grade.

Homework format:

If you do not follow these instructions, then you receive **ZERO** credit.

- Homework will be written legibly on clean unwrinkled 8.5 by 11 inch blank (preferably) or lined paper; paper torn from a spiraled notebook is NOT accepted.
- Homework problems will be written on BOTH sides of a page and written on the page in a certain way provided by the instructor via a “template”, a pdf file posted on blackboard in a homework folder, in order to speed up the instructor's grading and to maintain his sanity.
- Homework will be written 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 a mechanical pencil since one cannot generally erase ink and it is professional in appearance.
- Homework written on two or more sheets of paper will be STAPLED in the upper left-hand corner. Staples and a stapler are not always provided by the instructor. Fastening homework in another manner is not acceptable.
- Show all appropriate work for each problem. Only writing an answer will result in **ZERO** credit.



Tests:

- Every test is made of stapled paper, provided by the instructor, and conducted in class or potentially outside of class. The student does not need to purchase a “blue book” or any similar item.
- There are about six regular tests and one final test.
- One or two of the lowest test scores (only among the regular tests) will not be used in the final grade.
- Calculators can be used if permitted by the instructor.
- Cellphones or any other electronic devices are **NOT** allowed during any test. Otherwise, you receive zero credit for the 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 grade will be used in the final grade.
- Collectively, all tests are worth 80% of the total grade.

Why you are in this class?

- Learn more and expand major algebraic ideas from math 101.
- Learn more analytic geometry traditionally explored in a pre-calculus class.
- Learn that math problems are **never usually** solved in a one, quick, easy, and/or painless way.
- Another class has math 103 as a prerequisite.
- Other reasons

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 notes is important. Consequently, outlines of class notes are provided by the instructor (to the best of his ability) to ensure 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. Although, the student should still bring plenty of paper to class regardless.
- **Class format:**
Your instructor believes more in active learning than in passive learning. Only sitting and barely thinking about the math presented in class (passive activities) will most likely result in lower grades due to a poor understanding of the mathematics. Thus, your instructor will ask questions during class to encourage a class dialogue and ask you to do problems by yourself or with others in class. On occasion, the instructor will use his strange witty humor to figuratively shock the class. If you are offended, please talk to the instructor after class. We are all in the same boat when learning mathematics.

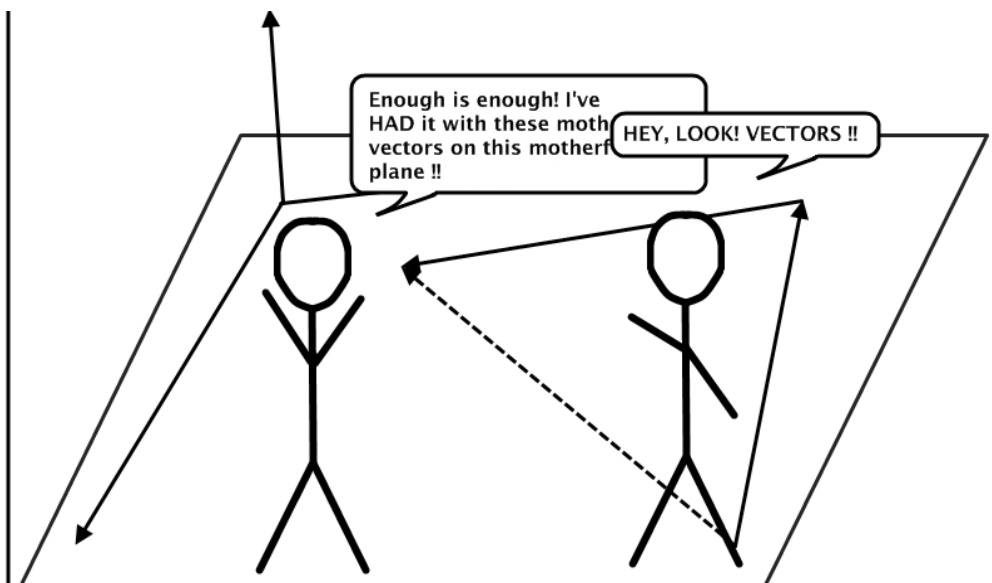


Course goals:

- Equation and Inequalities:
 1. Slope of a line
 2. The equation of a line
 3. Linear inequalities in two variables
 4. Operations on functions
- Rational Exponents and Roots
 1. Rational exponents
 2. Simplified form for radicals
 3. Arithmetic operations on radical expressions
 4. Equations with radicals
- Complex numbers
 1. Arithmetic operations of complex numbers
 2. Graphical representation of complex numbers
- Quadratic Functions
 1. Completing the square
 2. Solving quadratic equations
 3. Graphing parabolas
- Exponential and Logarithmic Functions
 1. Exponential Functions
 2. The inverse of a function
 3. Logarithms and their properties
 4. Exponential and logarithmic equations and change of base
- Conic sections
 1. Circle
 2. Ellipses and Hyperbolas
- Miscellaneous (time permitting)
 1. Binomial coefficients and binomial theorem
 2. Arithmetic and geometric sequences
 3. Maybe other or more stuff

Class materials:

- Blank AND lined paper
- Mechanical or wooden pencils. Have at least three different colors.
- Pencil erasers and sharpener
- Three-ring binder or folders
- Small stapler with extra staples
- Graph paper
- 6 in or 12 in ruler
- Calculator, details below
- Access to a computer and the internet either at home or at school.

**Calculator:**

- A small calculator with only add, subtract, multiply, and divide buttons is okay, but trouble will occur later when we study logarithms and other functions not on such a calculator.
- A graphing calculator is great, especially if spending \$100 is fine for you, but the instructor does not want you to spend too much money on a device that you will only use for a few weeks and never use again, especially if you do not plan to explore later math classes. Furthermore, typical graphing calculators such as the TI-83 are essentially run by technology circa 1997, quite out-of-date by today's standards.
- A scientific calculator is a good balance and should cost around \$20 or so.

Important Dates:

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| • Monday, September 5: | Labor Day (no class) |
| • Friday, October 14: | Last day to drop the class |
| • Friday, November 11: | Veteran's Day (no class) |
| • Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26: | Thanksgiving (no class) |
| • Friday, December 9: | Last day of class |
| • Monday, December 12: | Final test at 9:00am to 10:50am in CCI 206 |

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

Disclaimer:

Due to time constraints and/or unforeseen circumstances during the semester, your instructor reserves the right to alter anything in the syllabus when deemed necessary for the educational welfare of the students.