

# Elementary College Algebra Course Syllabus - Fall 2012



Course Instructor - Luke Denton

## Essential Information

### Contact Information

**Office Hours:** MWF from 2:21 p.m. to 3:14 p.m.  
**Office Location:** FEM-4  
**Cell Phone:** (559) 906-1282  
**Email Address:** [luke.denton@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:luke.denton@reedleycollege.edu)

### Course Information

**Course Title & Section:** Elementary Algebra - Math 201 Section 52570  
**College Course Credits:** 5 Semester Units  
**Course Prerequisites:** Math 250 or Equivalent  
**Course Advisories:** Math 256 and Eligibility for English 126  
**Meeting Place:** Reedley College - Room FEM 4  
**Meeting Times:** MW from 3:15 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.  
**Required Text:** George Woodbury, *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra*, 3rd ed., Pearson, 2012  
**MyMathLab Course ID:** denton56741

## Required Materials

To successfully complete this course you will require, at minimum, the following materials...

- A human brain. More specifically, one that has successfully completed a course in college arithmetic.
- A pencil or pen to write with, and probably some paper.
- A copy of the required text, either printed or electronic, with an active *MyMathLab* access number.
- A computer, with internet access.

## Course Overview

Welcome to the fascinating world of algebra. In this course you will study the kind of mathematics that will help you to better understand diverse real world phenomenon such as personal finances and taxes, to name just a few. Along the way you will learn to use algebraic thinking to solve a wide variety of challenging real life problems, as well as gaining an appreciation of the vital role that mathematics plays in the modern world today. For a comprehensive overview of the course content and specific learning objectives to be covered this semester, see the [Course Learning Objectives](#).



## Attendance and Participation



### WARNING!!!

Any student that exceeds **2 unexcused absences** before the end of the semester will be required to forfeit **ALL** of their class attendance participation points. Please note that if you leave before class is dismissed, you will receive an unexcused absence for the day.

It is your responsibility as a student to be in your seat and ready to learn at the scheduled start time. Class attendance is required, and taken daily. Each day of class attended is individually worth 2 points of participation credit. The late arrival grace period ends after 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, you will be marked late and automatically lose 1 point of the days attendance participation credit. While you are in class, it is also your responsibility as a student to actively participate in classroom activities. You can expect to participate regularly throughout the semester. While in class, please try to remember the following general guidelines for student participation...

#### Participation Do's

- **DO** find a seat and be ready to learn at the scheduled start time.
- **DO** answer questions or provide feedback if randomly selected or otherwise called upon to do so.
- **DO** download and complete the structured notes supplied for each lesson.
- **DO** perform your assigned role in any group activities.
- **DO** feel free to ask a question anytime you feel confused or unclear about any lesson content.

#### Participation Do Not's

- **DO NOT** disrupt the classroom learning environment.
- **DO NOT** be rude or disrespectful to your fellow classmates.
- **DO NOT** do anything on your phone. All cell/smart phone calling, texting, web browsing, instant messaging, calculating, game playing and/or any other on screen activity are all expressly prohibited.

I fully expect that all students can, and will, consistently meet these expectations throughout the course of the semester. In addition to the 2 points of attendance participation credit available daily, you will earn 10 points of participation credit on any day in which you participate in a group activity, and 25 points of participation credit on the days that we review a chapter. Participation point accounts for five percent of your final grade.

## R Absences



### WARNING!!!

You are responsible for all class content and assignments you miss due to any absence. In the event that you are absent for a quiz or test, or for any extended length of time, you must consult with the instructor for further instructions and/or special consideration of your particular situation.



## Late Work



### WARNING!!!

**NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED... NO EXCEPTIONS.**



## Emergencies

If there is an in-class emergency, please notify the instructor immediately so that it can be dealt with appropriately. In case of a fire alarm, please exit the room in an orderly fashion and safely proceed outside to a location that is clear of any potentially burning structures and await further instructions.



## Restrooms

Please try to use the restroom before or after class. However, if the need arises, you are free to go **AFTER** the first fifteen minutes of class. Please attempt to minimize the distractions as you leave and return if you do so.

## Food and Drink

Please do not bring a meal to class. A coffee or soda, even a small snack, are ok so long as you understand the you will be asked to clean up any mess you may make before you leave. Please attempt to minimize the distractions if you do so.

## Extra Credit

I believe in helping those that help themselves. In that spirit, extra credit is available for those willing to do the extra work to earn it. Extra credit is available to you throughout the semester, however much of it is time sensitive and available in-class only. Check blackboard for announcements about the types and quantity of extra credit opportunities available, as well as instructions for their successful completion.

## Educational Technology

Technology is an integral component of the modern college experience, and you will use a variety of educational technologies throughout the semester. Access to a computer with internet access is a course requirement. With it you will be able to do online homework, perform research, check for course announcements, track your grade, and operate a computer algebra system, among other things. Another educational technology available to you is the pocket calculator. Pocket calculators (but **NOT** phone calculators) are permitted for all coursework, including tests and quizzes. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, you must supply your own pocket calculator. As we will be working with polynomial and rational functions, as well as making heavy use of real numbers like  $\pi$  or  $\sqrt{2}$  throughout the semester, you should make sure to get a **SCIENTIFIC** calculator.

## Homework

Homework will be assigned to you on *MyMathLab* after each lesson. From the day of the lesson, you have three days to finish that lesson's homework assignment. Even better, you have three tries at every problem. Please note that while most homework will be completed online using *MyMathLab*, at the instructor's discretion traditional pencil and paper submissions may still at times be required. Each homework assignment is worth 5 points of homework credit. Homework points account for fifteen percent of your final grade.

### Extra Credit Opportunity!!!

At the end of every chapter, any student that turns in a complete set of classroom structured notes will be awarded an additional 5 points of extra homework credit!

## Internet Research Portfolio

Once every other chapter or so you will be assigned a short internet research project to complete. The purpose of the internet research project is to practice research and communication skills, and to help make an otherwise abstract mathematical generalization more concrete and easier to identify in the real world. You will be supplied with instructions and a grading rubric, which you will use to complete a 1-3 page research project that contains citations of your properly formatted references. At the end of the semester you will turn in a portfolio of completed internet research projects for grading. However, students who turn in their individual projects at an earlier date can receive not just feedback on their work, but also the opportunity to, without penalty, edit and revise their work before final submission. The internet research project portfolio is worth ten percent of your final grade.

### Extra Credit Opportunity!!!

Turn your project into a paper! For each project, you can receive an extra 25 points of portfolio points if you use your project as an outline to write a 2-3 page research paper. After you start your first project, check the extra credit folder on blackboard for more details.

# ★ Tests and Quizzes

Tests and quizzes account for a combined eighty percent of your total grade for the semester. There are no retakes for any test or quiz, so study hard and be ready at all times to do well on the following types of tests and quizzes you will encounter this semester.

## ⇒ QUICKWRITE

Quickwrites can be given at any time, but expect at most one a week. All quickwrites must be completed in class. Quickwrites will challenge you to communicate your understanding of mathematics, and will be graded on conceptual content only. They are worth 5 points of quiz credit each.

### **Extra Credit Opportunity!!!**

Occasionally (time permitting), I may assign a quickwrite that is non-mathematical. As such assignments have no mathematical content, they will not count as math quizzes. However, they do help me help you, and so to show my appreciation, each time I will reward you with 5 points of extra quiz credit!

## ⇒ *Vocabulary Quiz*

Vocabulary quizzes are in a multiple choice and/or fill in the blank format, and test your knowledge of both the definitions, as well as the correct use, of the vocabulary words assigned for the chapter. There will be exactly one vocabulary quiz for each chapter, to be given at the instructors discretion either in class or online. They are worth 10 points of quiz credit each.

### **Extra Credit Opportunity!!!**

Immediately after each chapter test, a vocabulary crossword puzzle and chapter glossary will be made available. Students who successfully complete the crossword puzzle and turn it in on the first class session after the test will be rewarded with 5 points of extra quiz credit!

## ⇒ **POP QUIZ**

A pop quiz can be given at anytime during class, and without prior warning. A pop quiz can cover as little as a single learning objective, and can be given at any time after the instruction is completed. The number of pop quizzes actually given this semester is an unknown non-negative integer, to be determined by the end of the semester. If given, they are worth 10 points of quiz credit each.

## ⇒ **Chapter Quiz**

There will be exactly one chapter quiz per chapter. A chapter quiz will usually cover the content of several different lessons, and can be given at any time up to, and including, the day before the chapter test. They may be given either in class or online, to be determined at the instructors discretion. They are worth 25 points of quiz credit each.

## ⇒ **CHAPTER TEST**

Every chapter concludes with a comprehensive chapter test in two parts. Part 1 is multiple choice format with no partial credit, and Part 2 is open ended with partial credit opportunities. However, full credit is available only when all work is shown. They are worth 100 points of test credit each.

### **Extra Credit Opportunity!!!**

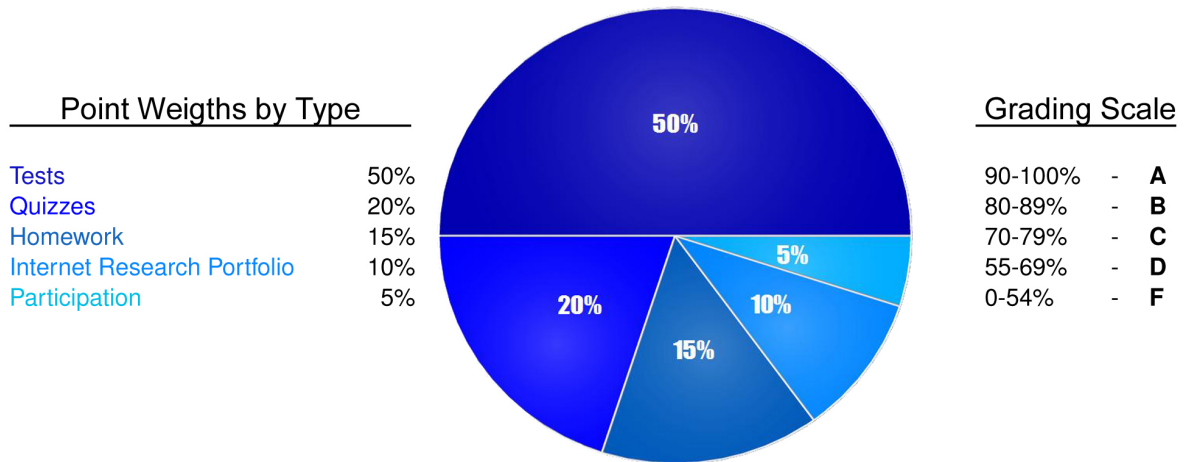
Four bonus questions of increasing difficulty are available on every chapter test. If you have mastered the material covered in the chapter, you can receive as many as 120 points of test credit on a chapter test!

## ⇒ **FINAL EXAM**

The semester will conclude with an all multiple-choice question cumulative final exam worth 100 points of test credit. At the end of the semester I will drop your lowest test score from your grade calculation. Any students that is satisfied with their overall grade in the course at the end of the semester is free to opt out of the final exam by taking a zero, and then having it dropped from their grade as their lowest test score.

# A+ Grades and Grading

Final semester grades are determined from the total number of points obtained in all course work (including any extra credit). For your final semester grade, points are weighted, and letter grades assigned, as follows:



Your grade is given by the equation

$$\text{Grade} = T^*(0.50) + Q(0.20) + H(0.15) + I(0.10) + P(0.05)$$

where

$Q = \frac{\text{Quiz Points Obtained}}{\text{Quiz Points Available}}$ ,  $H = \frac{\text{HW Points Obtained}}{\text{HW Points Available}}$ ,  $I = \frac{\text{IRP Points Obtained}}{\text{IRP Points Available}}$  and  $P = \frac{\text{Participation Points Obtained}}{\text{Participation Points Available}}$  are respectively the percentages of quiz, homework, internet research portfolio, and participation points that you have obtained during the course of the semester (including any extra credit).

**Sample Calculation** *Calculating H*

Homework	Ch.1	Ch.2	Ch.3	Ch.4	Ch.5	Ch.6	Ch.7
Points Obtained	60	55	55	60	55	30	35
Points Available	55	50	50	55	50	25	30

$$H = \frac{60 + 55 + 55 + 60 + 55 + 30 + 35}{55 + 50 + 50 + 55 + 50 + 25 + 30} = \frac{350}{315} = 111\%$$

When calculating your final grade, I will first drop your lowest test score from consideration, and then calculate and use your modified test scores percentage  $T^*$  instead.

$$T^* = \frac{\text{Test Points Obtained with your 7 highest test scores (+any Pretest extra credit)}}{700 \text{ Available Test Points}}$$

**Sample Calculation** *Calculating T\**

Test	Ch.1	Ch.2	Ch.3	Ch.4	Ch.5	Ch.6	Ch.7	Final	Pretest
Points Obtained	91	87	93	74	86	90	88	98	47
Points Available	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0

$$T^* = \frac{91 + 87 + 93 + 0 + 86 + 90 + 88 + 98 + 47}{100 + 100 + 100 + 0 + 100 + 100 + 100 + 100 + 0} = \frac{680}{700} = 97\%$$

To find out your final grade, simply substitute for each percentage its decimal equivalent and calculate to the nearest 100th. Convert it back to a percentage, and then check it against the grading scale.

**Sample Calculation** *Calculating your final grade*

Percentage	T*	Q	H	I	P
Decimal Equivalent	0.97	0.89	1.11	0.91	1.07

$$\text{Grade} = 0.97(0.50) + 0.89(0.20) + 1.11(0.15) + 0.91(0.10) + 1.07(0.05) = 0.974$$

We round this decimal figure down to 0.97=97/100=97%, which results in a final letter grade of **A**.

# AUGUST 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	<b>13</b> School Starts <b>Course Syllabus</b> <b>Arithmetic Pretest</b>	14	<b>15</b> <b>1.1</b> <b>1.2</b>	16	17	18
19	<b>20</b> <b>1.3</b> <b>1.4</b>	21	<b>22</b> <b>1.5</b> <b>1.7</b>	23	24	25
26	<b>27</b> <b>1.8</b>	28	<b>29</b> <b>Chapter Review</b> <b>Chapter 1 Test</b>	30	31	
					Last day to drop for a full refund	
					last day to register and/or drop (no W) in person	

# SEPTEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Labor Day <b>School Holiday</b> last day to register and/or drop (no W) on WebAdvisor	4	5 2.1	6	7	8
9	10 2.2	11	12 2.3	13	14 last day to change grading from letter to pass/fail	15
16	17 2.4 2.5	18	19 Chapter Review Chapter 2 Test	20	21	22
23	24 3.1 3.2	25	26 3.3	27	28	29

# OCTOBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 3.4 3.5	2	<b>3</b> 3.6 3.7	4	5	6
7	<b>8</b> Chapter Review Chapter 3 Test	9	<b>10</b> 4.1	11	12   <i>Last day to drop            a full term class</i>	13
14	<b>15</b> 4.2 4.3	16	<b>17</b> 4.4 4.5	18	19	20
21	<b>22</b> Chapter Review Chapter 4 Test		<b>24</b> 5.1 5.2	25	26	27
28	<b>29</b> 5.3 5.4 5.5	30	<b>31</b> Chapter Review Chapter 5 Test			



# NOVEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Daylight Savings	5 6.1 6.2a	6	7 6.2b 6.3 6.4	8	9	10
11 Veterans Day	12 School Holiday	13	14 6.5 6.6	15	16	17
18	19 6.7 6.8	20	21 Chapter Review Chapter 6 Test	22 Thanksgiving School	23 Holiday	24
25	26 7.1 7.2	27	28 7.3 7.4	29	30	

# DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 7.5 7.6 7.7	4	5 Chapter Review Chapter 7 Test	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Final Exam 3:00-5:50 pm FEM 4	13	14 End of the semester	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

# Student Contract

The course syllabus is a legally binding contract between an instructor and their students. Vice versa, the student contract is a legally binding contract between the student and their instructor, a contract that states that the student has read and understands not only the content of the course syllabus, but also the various responsibilities inherent to being a successful college student, including, but not limited to, satisfying course prerequisites, regular attendance, class conduct and participation, completing course projects and assignments on time, studying lecture notes and completed coursework, taking tests and quizzes in the allotted time, writing papers, visiting office hours, and being aware of emergency and evacuation procedures should the need arise.

## Course Policies

Please be aware that in order to accommodate any extenuating circumstances and/or to ensure better student learning, the course policies and schedule are subject to change at the instructors discretion.

- I have read and understood the policies and expectations set forth in the course syllabus.
- I understand that Mr. Denton reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time.
- I agree to abide by the policies and expectations set forth in the course syllabus to the best of my ability.

## School Policies

The State Center Community College District's student conduct standards page covers the college's policies and standards for honesty and academic integrity, unacceptable behavior, and illegal activities, among other things, as well as the consequences for violating those standards. All students are expected to meet or exceed the conduct standards for the duration of the semester, in all of their classes. The American Disabilities Act is a federal law that requires, among other things, the accommodation or modification of instruction in order to ensure the success of all students. If you require such an accommodation or modification, please indicate below, so that the appropriate documentation can be requested from student services to meet your needs.

- I have read and understood the State Center Community College District's [Student Conduct Standards](#).
- I agree to abide by the State Center Community College District's student conduct standards.
- I require an accommodation or modification of instruction as documented with [Student Services](#).

## Educational Research Policies

Data about student learning and instructor performance is essential for educational research, and as such will be collected throughout the semester. Educational data may be collected in a variety of formats, including, but not limited to, assignment and assessment scores, copies or computer scans of completed coursework, surveys, and video recordings of classroom activities. Any educational data collected will remain anonymous, and will only be used for research and/or professional development purposes.


- I understand that any coursework done this semester is subject to use as anonymous educational data.
- I understand that data may at any time be collected as video recordings of classroom activities.
- For research and development purposes, I agree to let Mr. Denton use my likeness and image as seen in any video recording of classroom activities, as well as in any other educational data in which it may appear.


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By signing this document, you agree that you have read and understood the student contract, and that as indicated above, all such statements are to the best of your knowledge both true and accurate.

 **Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

 E-mail (optional):

 Phone (optional):

**Questions or Comments:**