

## Topics Before Algebra

### **Course Description:**

An introduction to some of the key concepts covered in Beginning Algebra (e.g., solving equations, graphing, word problems) which are typically difficult for MATH 101 students. This course is designed for the student who has successfully completed MATH 250 or MATH 260.

**Text:** Tom Carson, Prealgebra, 4th Edition

### **Homework:**

Homework will be assigned daily and will be due during the next class meeting. Late homework will lose 25% of the points possible **for each day it is late**. Being absent on the day homework is due will not excuse you from the late submission penalty. Homework turned in must be neat and show all your work. Any illegible solutions or solutions with skipped steps will receive no credit. All homework must be done in pencil to receive any credit. A random subset of the problems assigned will be used to determine the homework grade. Each homework assignment will be worth 10 points.

### **Math Center Requirement:**

A part of your homework grade will be a mandatory one hour in the Math Center (FEM-1). This will be worth 10 points per week. You will need to log in and out of the Math Center and I will receive a weekly report showing your attendance in the center.

### **Quizzes:**

There will be **weekly** in-class **homework quizzes at the discretion of the instructor (May be announced or unannounced)**. These quizzes will be worth 20 points each and will be given either at the beginning or the end of class. Any students who are not in their seats when the quiz is handed out **will not** be allowed to take the quiz and will receive a grade of zero for that quiz. There will be no make up quizzes for students coming in late or leaving class early or for students absent on the day of a quiz.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, be on time, and be in class the entire class session. Leaving class early will be counted as a tardy and two tardies can be counted as an absence. Five (5) absences may result in a drop from the course. If you decide to drop the course, it is **your responsibility** to make the drop official in the Admissions and Records Office, or else possibly receive a grade of F.

### **Participation:**

Each student is required to be in class ready and able to participate in classroom discussions. You must be **present and on time** to be ready and able to participate in classroom discussions. There will be 10 participation points possible for each class meeting. An absence will result in no

Math 256 - Fall 2015  
Topics Before Algebra (56043)  
T,TH 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

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Room: SOC 31

participation points for the day. Students who arrive late or leave early will receive at most half of the participation points for the day.

### **Exams:**

4-6 Exams will be given, worth 100 points each. Each exam will cover at most two chapters of material. There will be no makeups for missed exams. **No Exceptions!** If you must be absent on the day an exam is scheduled, you may discuss with me the possibility of taking the exam **early**.

### **Final Exam:**

A two hour comprehensive final exam worth 100 points will be given during finals week. This final exam will be cumulative, **mandatory** and will count as a regular exam. The final **may** be used to replace a low exam score or a missed exam. The final **may not** be used to replace any homework grade, quiz grade or participation grade.

### **Personal Emergencies:**

To account for any personal emergencies or unexpected events, the following allowances are made:

- 1) The two lowest homework grades will be dropped.
- 2) The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.
- 3) The final exam **may** replace the lowest exam score, if the final exam score is higher.

### **Grading:**

Homework will represent 20% of the final course grade  
Quizzes will represent 15% of the final course grade  
Participation will represent 5% of the final course grade  
The exams and the final exam will represent 60% of the final course grade

Your grade will then be determined by the following grading scale.

90% - 100% A  
80% - 89.9% B  
70% - 79.9% C  
60% - 69.9% D  
0% - 59.9% F

### **Cheating:**

“Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.” (Reedley College Catalog, Page 44)

**Disabled Students Programs & Services:**

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.

**Important Dates:**

August 17(M) Start of the Fall Semester  
August 28(F) Last day to Drop full-term class for refund  
September 4(F) Last day to register for full length class or Drop to avoid a "W"  
September 7(M) Labor Day (No classes held, campus closed)  
September 18(F) Last day to change fall class to/from a Pass/No-Pass grading basis  
October 16(F) Last day to drop a full-term class  
November 11(W) Veterans Day (no classes held, campus open)  
November 26-27(Th-F) Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes held, campus closed)  
December 14-18(M-F) Final Exams Week  
**December 17(Th) Final Exam for this course is in SOC 31 from 8:00-9:50AM**

**COURSE OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- I. Apply the order of operations and rules of exponents to integers.
- II. Simplify and evaluate algebraic expressions.
- III. Apply the addition and multiplication properties of equality to solve equations in one variable.
- IV. Factor out the greatest common factor in an algebraic expression.
- V. Generate a table of solutions and graph its ordered pairs for linear equations and inequalities.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

In the process of completing this course, students will:

- I. Use a number line to derive the rules for addition of positive and negative numbers.
- II. Simplify and evaluate algebraic expressions
- III. Differentiate between an expression and an equation.
- IV. Identify monomials, binomials, trinomials and polynomials.
- V. Identify and combine like terms in simplifying polynomials
- VI. Add, subtract and multiply polynomials
- VII. Solve linear equations in one variable.
- VIII. Setup a table of solutions for linear equations and inequalities in two variables and graph those solutions

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

- A. Operations With Signed Number
- B. Order of Operations and Evaluating Expressions
- C. Simplifying Algebraic Expressions
- D. Equations
- E. Exponents
- F. Adding Subtracting and Multiplying Polynomials
- G. Factoring
- H. Multiplying and Dividing Fractions
- I. Graphing