

BEGINNING ALGEBRA – Online

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a first course in elementary algebra including: algebraic expressions, linear equations and inequalities, linear equations and inequalities in two variables, exponents and polynomials, factoring and rational expressions.

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion (grade of **C** or better) of Math 250 or eligibility as determined by the assessment process

TEXT: George Woodbury, Beginning & Intermediate Algebra, 4th Edition
Note: You do not need to buy the book, but you must buy the Access Code. This will be explained during the orientation.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

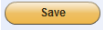
- ❑ One or two spiral-bound **gridpaper** notebooks
- ❑ Pencil(s)
- ❑ Scientific Calculator (No TI-89, cellphones or tablets may be used during midterm/final)
- ❑ **Access Code to Course Compass (MyLab/Mastering)**
- ❑ Internet Connection: Cable/DSL, T1 or other high-speed connection.
- ❑ **Two (2) Scantrons, form 882E**

MANDATORY MEETING DATES

June 13, 2016	Orientation	6 – 8:00 p.m.	FEM-4
June 23, 2016	Midterm	6 - 8 p.m.	FEM-4
August 4, 2016	Final Exam	6 - 8 p.m.	FEM-4

*Note: If you have a conflict with either the midterm or final exam days/times listed above, you may contact me **at least 48 hours ahead of time** to arrange taking the exam **earlier** (at 3:30 p.m.) on the day the exam is scheduled.*

HOMEWORK: Homework assignments are completed online and the assignments can be found at the *My Math Lab* website, www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com. You may work ahead if you like; all homework for the entire chapter will be made available to the student no less than three days before the start of the chapter. ***It is important to stay current to be successful in the course!*** Each assignment has a due date. Late homework will lose 25% of the points possible ***for every day it is late.*** Online homework will account for 20% 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  icon and the program will save your work. You can then come back to the assignment at another time and continue from where you left off.*

Homework Notebook: I recommend that you complete all homework problems and show your work in one of the two **gridpaper spiral notebooks** listed in the materials list. These notebooks will not be collected, but they will be an excellent way to keep yourself organized and will help you when you go to study for the midterm and final exam.

ONLINE TESTS: There will be seven online tests given, each exam covering one chapter of material. Tests will be available three days prior to the deadline. After the deadline the test will no longer be available. You are allowed two attempts to take each online exam, but the score that will be recorded will be the **average** of the two scores. If you choose not to take the exam a second time, then your original score will be recorded. Failure to take an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam. Each online test is worth 100 points and Online Tests will account for 20% of your grade.

Note: *Once you begin the exam you will have 120 minutes to complete it. After the 120 minutes have expired the exam will no longer be available to you. It is not possible to stop the exam and return to it later! If you attempt to do this you will be locked out of the program and will have to contact me for access to the course. Be sure to plan your exam time accordingly; if you start the exam with less than 120 minutes before the exam deadline, the program will shut you out at the deadline, **not 120 minutes after the time you started!***

Very important note! If, while taking an exam, you attempt to navigate to another website or another part of the Pearson website the system will shut down the test, submit whatever score you had at that point and you will be locked out of both the exam and the course. **DO NOT** navigate away from the webpage the test is on or try to open another browser!

MIDTERM EXAM: There will be one (1) Midterm Exam which will be given at the Reedley College Campus. The Midterm Exam will be worth 100 points, and will cover chapters 1 and 2. The midterm will be a multiple choice exam and you will need a Scantron, form 882E to take the exam. Two hours will be allowed to take the Midterm Exam. **Students will need to present a valid picture I.D. in order to take the exam.**

FINAL EXAM: A two hour comprehensive final exam worth 100 points will be given at the end of the semester during finals week on the Reedley College campus. The final will be a multiple choice exam and you will need a Scantron, form 882E to take the exam. **Students will need to present a valid picture I.D. in order to take the exam.**

Attendance and Tardy Policy

- Students who do not sign up at www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com and complete all of Chapter 1 (homework and Chapter 1 exam) by **Sunday, June 19, 2016** will be dropped. My Math Lab will allow you to enroll on their site with *temporary access* without buying the access code, but any student who enrolls with *temporary access* will be **required** to have purchased the access code and be permanently enrolled in the My Math Lab course by **Sunday, June 19, 2016**. Failure to do so will result in a **drop from the course!**
- Since this is an online class, your attendance is based on your working on assignments on www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com on a regular basis and staying up to date on assignments. Failure to complete assignments and online exams in a timely manner may result in your being dropped from the course for nonattendance.
- Checking your email daily is also a part of your attendance. Students are responsible for any and all information sent to them in emails or posted on the Blackboard or My Math lab sites. **Not checking your email is not an excuse for anything!**
- It is your responsibility to make sure you have a good internet connection and that the computer you are using is able to handle the necessary software for the course. Technology problems will not be accepted as excuses to get extensions, second chances or exceptions for any assignment, **especially on tests**. If your computer 'freezes' during an online exam, you will not be given access to it again and you will receive a grade of zero for that exam.
- Students are expected to attend the on campus meetings on the scheduled date, arrive on time, and bring a valid picture ID. Students who are absent will receive a zero on the missed midterm or final exam. Students who miss the orientation may be dropped. *Arriving late for the midterm or final exam means you will have **less** time to complete the midterm. Do not expect extended time to account for your tardiness.*

Time Requirements

This class is only 8 weeks long and, therefore, pretty intense. You should expect to work an average of four to five hours **every day**, depending on your level of math preparedness. Online courses are not for everyone! Although online classes can give you a lot of flexibility with your time, the class requires excellent study skills and a great deal more discipline than a face-to-face class. I definitely **do not** recommend an online course for students

- who do not have strong study skills and discipline
- who can't spend 4-5 hours a day on their classwork
- who do not have solid basic math skills
- who have not taken math for a long time
- who have received a grade lower than a B in a previous math class.

Communication Guidelines

All communication will be via email. Please follow the following guidelines in all email communication:

- Email language should be written with full sentences and be professional
- Sign your **first and last name** at the end of every email
- Type **Math 201 Online** in the subject bar of the email
- Please do not share personal details and stories.

Personal and Technology Emergencies

I am well aware that sometimes emergencies arise both in your personal life and with the technology that you may be using. To account for these unexpected events, I have made the following allowances:

- The lowest two **homework grades** will be dropped.
- The lowest **online exam grade** will be dropped. *Remember you have two attempts for each online exam but the average of the two exams will be the recorded score.*
- Whatever score you earn on the final exam will be recorded as your final exam score and may replace your midterm score (if the final is higher than that midterm score).
- Missing the final exam will result in a score of 0.
- There are no makeups for **any** missed online exams, midterms or the final exam.

GRADING:

- **Homework** will represent 20% of the final course grade.
- **Online Exams** will represent 20% of the final course grade.
- The **midterm exam and the final exam** will represent 60% of the final course grade.

Example: If your homework average is 85, the average of your online exams is 75 and the average of your midterm exams and the final is 78, then you would compute your grade as follows:

$$(.20)(85) + (.20)(75) + (.60)(78) = 17 + 15 + 47.8 = 79.8$$

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

89.5% - 100% = A	79.5% - 89.4% = B	66.5% - 79.4% = C	54.5% - 66.4% = D	0% - 54.4% = F
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Academic Dishonesty: Reedley College rules on plagiarism will be strictly enforced. 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. **The student receiving the grade on their transcript needs to be the person doing the work at ALL times in this class.** If not, the student will receive an automatic F in the course, and suffer the utmost consequences of plagiarism as set forth by the college's academic regulations.

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.*

Important Dates:

June 13, 2016	Mandatory Meeting 6:00 – 7:30 pm, FEM-4 Reedley College Campus
June 19, 2016	Online Exam Due Exam #1 – Chapter 1
June 19, 2016	Deadline to be PERMANENTLY enrolled in My Math Lab and have Chapter 1 completed (HW and Exam)
June 23, 2016	Midterm Exam 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., FEM-4 Reedley College Campus
June 26, 2016	Online Exam Due Exam #2 – Chapter 2
July 3, 2016	Online Exam Due Exam #3 – Chapter 3
July 8, 2016	Last Day to Drop
July 10, 2016	Online Exam Due Exam #4 – Chapter 4
July 17, 2016	Online Exam Due Exam #5 – Chapter 5
July 25, 2016	Online Exam Due Exam #6 – Chapter 6
August 2, 2016	Online Exam Due Exam #7 – Chapter 7
August 4, 2016	Final Exam 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., FEM-4 Reedley College Campus

COURSE 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.

COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE

Chapter 1: Review of Real Number

Chapter 2: Linear Equations

Chapter 3: Graphing Linear Equations

Chapter 4: Systems of Equations

Chapter 5: Exponents and Polynomials

Chapter 6: Factoring and Quadratic Equations

Chapter 7: Rational Expressions and Equations