

Welcome to PRECALCULUS Online

As specified on WebAdvisor, this course is a Hybrid Course which means that there are a few mandatory face-to-face meetings. These meetings are listed below:

January 10, 2017	Orientation	7 – 8:30 p.m.	AGR - 1 Reedley College
February 7, 2017	Onsite Exam #1	7 – 8:30 p.m.	AGR - 1 Reedley College
March 7, 2017	Onsite Exam #2	7 – 8:30 p.m.	AGR - 1 Reedley College
April 18, 2017	Onsite Exam #3	7 – 8:30 p.m.	AGR - 1 Reedley College
May 16, 2017	Final Exam	7 – 8:50 p.m.	AGR - 1 Reedley College

It is important that you make whatever arrangements are necessary **NOW** in order for you to be able to meet this requirement of the course. If you have an evening class scheduled that conflicts with any of these five scheduled meetings, you need to contact me during the first week of classes to see what can be done.

What is Precalculus?

As the title of the course implies, this course is a preparation for calculus. To be successful in calculus, your algebra skills need to be very strong. You can think of this course as Intermediate Algebra on steroids! The topics we will cover include polynomial, absolute value, radical, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions and their graphs as well as analytic geometry and polar coordinates. Many of these topics will be ones you have been introduced to in intermediate algebra, but in precalculus we will take these topics to a higher level in preparation for calculus. *[The prerequisite for this course is successful completion (grade of **C** or better) in Math 4A or equivalent.]*

How much time will this class take?

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. Precalculus is a four-unit course. This means that a student taking this class **face-to-face** will spend four hours per week in class, **getting instruction from the instructor**. In addition to in-class time, a precalculus student can expect to spend approximately **two hours** working on homework for every one hour he/she is in class. Therefore, a precalculus student can expect to spend approximately **12 hours** per week on this course. **As an online student**, you can expect to spend **at least 12 hours** per week on this course as well. This number may be lower or higher for you, depending on your math preparedness.

What materials do I need?

Note: You do not need to buy the book, but you **must** buy the Access Code.

The textbook we will be using is: **Blitzer, Robert, Precalculus, 5th Edition. Pearson/Addison Wesley, 2014.**



- **Access Code to My Math Lab (Pearson)**
 - Scientific Calculator (TI84 **highly recommended**. No TI-89 or cellphones)
- Note: The library has TI84 calculators available to be checked out for the entire semester.**

How do I earn my grade?

Homework: Homework assignments are completed online and the assignments can be found at the *My Math Lab* website, www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com. **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 15% of your grade. You may work ahead if you like.

Online Tests: There will be six to seven online tests given, usually (but not always!) covering one chapter of material in each exam. 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 15% of your grade.

Note: *Once you begin the exam you will have 90 minutes to complete it. After the 90 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 90 minutes before the exam deadline, the program will shut you out at the deadline, **not 90 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!

Onsite Exams: There will be three Onsite Exams which will be given at the Reedley College Campus. Each Onsite Exam will be worth 100 points and will cover approximately two chapters of material. Ninety minutes will be allowed to take each Onsite 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.

Students will need to present a valid picture I.D. in order to take all onsite exams.

Final Grading: Your final grade in the course is made up of three components: **Homework** and **Online Exams** will each represent 15% of the final course grade, and the **onsite exams** and **final exam** will represent 70% 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 three onsite exams and the final is 78, then you would compute your grade as follows:

$$(.15)(85) + (.15)(75) + (.70)(78) = 12.75 + 11.25 + 54.6 = 78.6$$

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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CLASS POLICIES I NEED TO KNOW!

Communication: 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 4B Online** in the subject bar of the email

If you use more than one email address, then it is your responsibility to check **all** of your email accounts on a daily basis. When I send an email through Canvas it will go to your Canvas inbox, while any messages sent through My Math Lab will go to whichever email you entered when you registered for your account on the Pearson site.

Attendance:

- Students who do not sign up at www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com and are up-to-date with course assignments by **Sunday, January 15, 2017** will be dropped. My Math Lab will allow you to enroll on their site with a *temporary access* without buying the access code.
- Any student who enrolls with a *temporary access code* will be **required** to have purchased the access code, be permanently enrolled in the My Math Lab course, and be up-to-date with course assignments by **Sunday, January 22, 2017**. 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 at 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 Canvas 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 attempt. Remember, you have two attempts for each 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 for any onsite exam will receive a zero for that exam. *Arriving late for any onsite exam means you will have **less** time to complete that day's exam. Please do not expect extended time to account for your tardiness.*

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 will replace your lowest of the three previous onsite exam scores (if the final is higher than the lowest onsite exam score).
- Missing the final exam will result in a score of 0.
- There are no makeups for **any** missed online exams, onsite exams or the final exam.

Academic Integrity: You are expected to be honest. 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. 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.

Academic Calendar:

1/15/17	Deadline to be enrolled and be up-to-date with online assignments	3/7/17	Onsite Exam #2– Reedley College 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., AGR - 1
1/22/17	Deadline to be PERMANENTLY enrolled in My Math Lab	3/10/17	LAST DAY TO DROP AND RECEIVE GRADE OF W
1/27/17	Last day to add a full-term course for Spring 2017	4/18/17	Onsite Exam #3– Reedley College 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., AGR - 1
2/7/17	Onsite Exam #1– Reedley College 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., AGR - 1	5/16/17	Onsite Final Exam – Reedley College 7:00 – 8:50 p.m., AGR - 1