MATH 012 (Algebra) Course Syllabus Summer 2006

Instructor Information:  
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Course Information:  
room: 141 Altgeld Hall  
times: 9:00am-9:50am weekdays  
3:00pm-3:50pm Mondays

Course Description: Review of concepts such as factoring, rational expressions, equations, and inequalities. Functions and graphs, exponential and logarithmic functions, introduction to trigonometric functions, systems of equations, matrices and determinants, polynomials, and the binomial theorem.

MATH 012 is a prerequisite for MATH 103 (Theory of Arithmetic), MATH 117 (Elementary Mathematics), MATH 124 (Finite Mathematics), MATH 125 (Elementary Linear Algebra), MATH 161 (Statistics, also listed as STAT 100), and MATH 234 (Calculus for Business). MATH 012 is not a prerequisite for either MATH 016 (Algebra and Trigonometry) or MATH 220 (Calculus). Moreover, MATH 016 is a prerequisite for MATH 220, and credit is not given for both MATH 012 and MATH 016.

Materials: The text for this course is Precalculus: Mathematics for Calculus by James Stewart, Lothar Redlin, and Saleem Watson. Texts available to borrow; however, I will not enter your grade if you have not returned your book. You should always bring a pencil and a scientific calculator to class. A graphing calculator will be extremely helpful but is not required. If you do not already have a graphing calculator, I suggest buying one made by Texas Instruments.

Grading: The grading scale is as follows:

- A: 90 and above
- B: at least 80 and less than 90
- C: at least 70 and less than 80
- D: at least 60 and less than 70
- F: less than 60

I will give plusses and minuses as I feel necessary. The components of your grade are the first assignment, homework, quizzes, tests, and a cumulative final. With only a couple of exceptions mentioned later, all assignments must be in pencil in order to receive credit.
First Assignment: The first assignment counts for 5% of your final grade. It must be handwritten, but it may be in either pencil or pen. For this assignment, you need supply your name, class (such as freshman), major, and minor; list the classes you are taking and when they meet; list all mathematics courses you have taken, where you took them, and the grade that you received in them; list what mathematics courses you plan on taking in the future and indicate whether they are required for your major or minor; and discuss your attitude towards mathematics. Neatness and honesty count. For extra credit, you may analyze what caused you to have the attitude that you have towards mathematics and/or discuss your strengths and weaknesses in mathematics. This assignment is due on Friday, June 17th. Unless I tell you otherwise, this assignment will not be accepted late.

Problems in the remaining types of assignments will not receive credit if either I cannot read them or no work is shown.

Homework: Homework counts for 15% of your final grade. I will collect homework on a regular basis. I grade homework (turned in on time) on a completion basis: problems attempted receive full credit, regardless of their correctness. (All other assignments are graded on a correctness basis.) For late homework, the grade will be dropped 10% per day late, and I reserve the right to grade such homework on a correctness basis. I also reserve the right to refuse to accept late homework from students who frequently turn in their homework late or sometimes turn in homework long after it is due. Homework must be in pencil or typed in order to receive credit.

Quizzes: Quizzes count for 15% of your final grade. Quizzes will be given on a random basis and are unannounced. There are no make up quizzes except under the circumstances of the attendance policy given later. The material on the quiz will usually consist of material covered within the past three days, but may include material covered on the day that the quiz is given. For some quizzes, I may prohibit the use of calculators. I will drop some (approximately two) of the lowest quiz grades at the end of the semester.

Tests: Tests count for 40% of your final grade. I plan on giving four tests, which would count for 10% each. If the number of tests given changes, then the weight of the components of your grade may also change, which I will announce. I will announce tests about a week in advance. For some sections, I may prohibit the use of calculators. If such is the case, I will announce this at least three days before the test. Unless time does not permit, there will be at least half a day for review for each test. Also unless time does not permit, I will not cover material that will not be on a test prior to the test.

Final: The final counts for 25% of your final grade. I will announce the date of the final as soon as possible. There will be a day of review for the final. For some sections of the final, I may prohibit the use of calculators.
Absences: If you are or will be absent, please let me know as soon as possible. Excused absences will not count as days for which the homework is late. If you miss three or more quizzes due to excused absences, you may make them up; however, the only quizzes I will drop are the make up quizzes. If the make up quizzes help your grade, I will not drop them. In the event that you miss a test or the final due to an absence, please let me know as soon as possible. I reserve the right to refrain from giving make up tests and finals for unexcused absences.

Distractions: If possible, do not bring electronic devices such as cell phones and I-Pods to class. You are not allowed to use such items in class. If you must bring such items, please make sure that they are off. This is especially important during quizzes and tests.

Integrity: Academic dishonesty of any kind will \textit{not} be tolerated. I will act promptly on any such occurrences. Please see the university policy for more details.