

Math 95: Elementary Algebra

3 credits • Fall 2010

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Office Hours:

Monday 12:25-2:25

Tuesday 11:00-1:00

Wednesday 12:25-1:25

Topics and Course Description:

A first course in algebra. Topics covered include the fundamental operations on real numbers, first degree equations, inequalities in one variable, polynomials, integer exponents, and solving quadratic equations by factoring.

Text: Beginning Algebra by Burke, Lambert III, and Olsen (orange book).

Calculator: No calculator is required for this course. Calculators will not be allowed during exams. Anyone found to be using a calculator on an exam will get an F on the exam. However, a scientific calculator (A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended) will be helpful for doing some homework assignments.

Learning Objectives:

- Demonstrate and apply the basic properties of real numbers such as the commutative, associative, distributive laws, identity elements and additive and multiplicative inverses and perform operations over the real numbers.
- Interpret and apply rules of the order of operations involving real numbers.
- Evaluate expressions by substituting values for variables.
- Translate English into algebraic expressions and develop mathematical reasoning.
- Simplify algebraic expressions.
- Apply the rules of exponents over the Real numbers.
- Evaluate roots and radical expressions.
- Solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable.
- Solve and graph linear equations and inequalities in two variables.
- Evaluate polynomial expressions.
- Perform basic polynomial factoring.
- Solve quadratic equations by:
 - Applying the zero product property and relating it to factors of polynomials.
 - Solving a quadratic equation algebraically by factoring.

Academic Responsibilities:

- Learn all the material covered in this course.
- Learn basic calculator procedures to solve problems.
- Take all tests and quizzes and complete homework/group work as stated in the class policy.

Prerequisite:

C or better in MATH 093 or equivalent or qualifying ACCUPLACER, ACT/SAT test results.

Attendance:

Attendance is checked every class period. You are responsible for studying the material that was covered during your absences. If you miss class, get a copy of the notes from another student who was there that day. If you miss 4 or more classes, I may give you a grade of F or ask you to withdraw from the course.

Grading:

Homework (Daily Problems & Problem Sets)	35%
Reading Assignments & Participation	10%
2 Exams	15% each
Comprehensive Final Exam	25%

The final grade will be determined approximately as follows:

A: 90 - 100%, B: 80 - 89%, C: 70 - 79%, D: 60 - 69%, F: below 60%

Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in an F.

Examinations:

There will be two regular exams which will take a full class period each. Note that make-up exams will not be given unless you have a compelling reason and my prior consent. There will also be a comprehensive final exam. All exams will be closed-book and closed-notes.

Homework:

There will be two types of homework assignments: Daily problems from the book and longer problem sets that are preparation for the exams. The two types of homework each count as 50% of your homework grade.

Reading Assignments:

Before coming to class, read the section(s) that will be discussed that day and complete the reading assignment (Note: The first few sections do not have reading assignments). To pass this class, you will need to come to class prepared. Your preparation involves reading the book before I lecture on the material.

TMCC's Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Statement:

Qualified, self-identified students with documented disabilities have the right to free accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities at Truckee Meadows Community College. For assistance, contact TMCC's Disability Resource Center at 775-673-7277, TTY 775-673-7888, come by the Red Mountain Building, room 315 B, or visit www.tmcc.edu/drc.

Student Classroom Conduct Statement:

Turn off cell phones before coming to class and do not answer your phone or engage in "texting" during class. If you must leave class early, let me know ahead of time and sit by the door so that you can leave without disrupting the class. Finally, people chatting during class about non-class topics will be asked to leave the room.