

**Math 101 - College Algebra
Section 4T**

Spring 2001

Instructor: Dr. Brian Heck
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Office Hrs: MWF 11-12:30 pm
MW 2-6 pm

Prerequisites: Math 003 (with a C or better) or satisfactory score on placement test.

Text: College Algebra (1st ed.) by Robert Blitzer (Prentice Hall)

Calculator: We will at times make use of calculator technology. You will need to have a scientific calculator and be able to use it efficiently.

Course Description (catalog): Linear equations and inequalities, linear applications, systems of linear equations, quadratic equations and inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities, radical equations, functions and graphs, polynomial and exponential and logarithmic functions.

Course Objectives: To learn as much algebra as humanly possible in one semester.

Instructor Expectations: Come to class prepared (with text and fully aware). In order to understand what we are doing in class, it will be necessary for you to do problems outside of class, and it would be beneficial to you to read the text prior to our covering the material in class. You will be required on all exams to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the material.

Grading Policy:

Weekly Problem Sets 100 pts
4 Tests (100 pts ea) 400 pts
Final Exam 200 pts
700 pts

Grading Scale:

A: 630-700 pts
B: 560-629 pts
C: 490-559 pts
D: 420-489 pts
F: less than 420 pts

In addition to the homework assignments for every section we cover, I will pass out problem sets every Tuesday to be turned in the following Tuesday. Late problem sets will be accepted with a valid excuse (as determined by me). Late problem sets without a valid excuse will be subject to a reduced grade. If you miss one of the exams, you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam without a valid excuse and prior notice. The homework problems from each section are also important. Repetition is one of the best ways to learn something, especially mathematics. Additionally, although they do not directly affect your grade, homework problems often find their way onto tests. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Attendance: I will not include attendance as part of your course grade. I am not your mother or your parole officer, and this is not high school. I do, however, expect you to attend everyday. You are responsible for any and all material covered in class. If you miss any class, it is up to you to meet with me (if necessary) and catch up on the material you missed.

Approximate Class Schedule:

We will assume knowledge of Chapter P. You should look this chapter over, and if you get questions, please come see me. Below is a list of the sections we will attempt to cover this semester. If time allows, more sections may be added. If time does not allow, some sections listed may be skipped.

Chapter 1: Sections 1-6

Chapter 5: Section 1

Test 1 (Thursday, February 15)

Chapter 2: Sections 1-7

Test 2 (Thursday, March 15)

Chapter 3: Sections 1-4

Test 3 (Thursday, April 5)

Chapter 4: Sections 1-5

Test 4 (Thursday, May 3)

Final Exam (TBA)

Closing Remarks:

You are at a university, not a trade school. The goal is intellectual development and knowledge for knowledge sake. If you want to only learn what you need to get a job, go somewhere else.

Do not ask me why you need to learn the material we are currently learning. The answers are (1) because it will be on the final (2) because this is what algebra is, and any course called College Algebra should cover this, and (3) because I say so. If during the semester you get the urge to ask me why we are learning something, re-read this paragraph. If you are still unsure, see (3) above.

It is assumed that you are attending this university because you have a desire for higher learning. It is therefore expected that you will pay attention, be respectful of your instructor and fellow students, and follow the Code of Student Conduct. Instances of academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely. If you are caught cheating, you will fail this course. Similarly, if you are a disruptive presence in the classroom, you will be dropped from the class.

Important Dates:

Final Date to Add Courses or Drop Without a "W" - Monday, January 22

Final Date to Drop Courses With a "W" - Monday, April 2