

**MATH 108**  
**PRECALCULUS**  
Nicholls State University, Fall 2010

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian Heck  
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My office hours are 8:30-11:30 T/Th and 8:30-1:30 F. Please contact me (phone, email, or in person) during these times if you have any questions. If you need assistance at a different time, let me know and we'll work something out.

**Prerequisite:** Math 101 (with a C or better) or advanced placement.

**Text:** Algebra & Trigonometry (8<sup>th</sup> ed.) by Sullivan (Prentice Hall) with MyMathLab.

**Calculator:** You will need to have at least a scientific calculator.

**Course Description (catalog):** Inequalities, functions, theory of equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, analytic geometry.

**Course Objectives:** A student who completes this course will be able to:

- Solve equations
- Analyze equations to determine the number and nature of solutions
- Evaluate functions
- Solve inequalities and express solutions in a variety of notations
- Graph functions using transformations, including trigonometric functions
- Simplify algebraic and trigonometric expressions
- Verify trigonometric identities
- Determine trigonometric values

**Grading Policy:** We will have three exams, a final exam, and regular *MyMathLab* assignments. Each exam (including the comprehensive final exam) will count for 100 points. If your test average prior to the final exam is 90% or better, you are exempt from the final (although you may elect to take it anyway). If you know in advance of a scheduled test that you will be absent due to a school-sponsored function, or a scheduled appointment, then you may take a make-up test provided arrangements are made sufficiently in advance with the instructor and documentation of the absence is produced. In order to be eligible to take a make-up for other reasons, such as medical emergencies and illnesses, the student must supply for verification purposes appropriate documentation and relevant phone numbers upon the first day returning to class. The instructor will judge what is or is not appropriate. In addition to exams, every few days I will post an assignment to *MyMathLab* that you will need to complete for a grade. Your *MyMathLab* grade will be 100 points as well. At the conclusion of the semester, I will assign grades based on the usual 10% scale (A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%, etc.)

How to enroll in a course in MyMathLab:

- (1) Go to Course Compass at <http://www.coursecompass.com>
- (2) Click on **Register** under Students.
- (3) Read the **Before You Start** instructions, and then click **Next** at the bottom.
- (4) Enter the course ID for this course (**heck38313**) and click on **Find Course**.
- (5) Verify that you have the correct course and select your enrollment option (**Access Code** or **Buy Now**).

**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 class everyday. You are responsible for all material covered in class.

**Instructor Expectations:** Come to class prepared to learn. 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. I also expect you to take responsibility for your achievement (or lack thereof) in this class. I am more than happy to help you succeed, but it will take effort on your part as well. I firmly believe that if you (1) come to class and pay attention, (2) do your homework, and (3) ask questions when you get confused, you will do very well in this course. 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**

- Test #1 – Wednesday, September 22
- Test #2 – Monday, October 18
- ‘W’ Day – Monday, November 1
- Test #3 – Wednesday, November 17
- Final Exam – Monday, December 6 \*\*8:00-10:00 am\*\*

**Academic Grievances:** The proper procedure for filing grade appeals or grievances related to academic matters is listed in Section 5 of the *Code of Student Conduct* and at the following link: [www.nicholls.edu/documents/student\\_life/code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](http://www.nicholls.edu/documents/student_life/code_of_conduct.pdf).

**Continued Learning following an Extreme Emergency:** In order to make continued learning possible following an extreme emergency

**students are responsible for:**

- reading regular emergency notifications on the NSU website;
- knowing how to use and access Blackboard (or university designated electronic delivery system);
- being familiar with emergency guidelines;

- evacuating textbooks and other course materials;
- knowing their Blackboard (or designated system) student login and password;
- contacting faculty regarding their intentions for completing the course.

**faculty are responsible for:**

- their development in the use of the Blackboard (or designated) software;
- having a plan for continuing their courses using only Blackboard and email;
- continuing their course in whatever way suits the completion of the course best, and being creative in the continuation of these courses;
- making adjustments or compensations to a student's progress in special programs with labs, clinical sequences or the like only in the immediate semester following the emergency.

***Disability:*** If you have a documented disability that requires assistance, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Office of Disability Services is located in Peltier Hall, Room 100-A. The phone number is (985) 448-4430 (TDD 449-7002).