

**MATH 108  
PRECALCULUS**

Nicholls State University, Summer Intersession 2008

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian Heck  
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My office hours are 8:00-9:00 M-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:** Precalculus (1<sup>st</sup> ed.) by Dwyer and Gruenwald (Brooks/Cole)

**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, including trigonometric functions.
- Simplify algebraic and trigonometric expressions.

**Grading Policy:** We will have two exams, a mid-term and a final. Both exams will count for 150 points. Additionally, students will be required to present homework problems at the board regularly. At the end of the semester, each student will receive a "Boardwork" grade worth up to 100 points. Your course grade will be based on the usual 10% scale. So 360-400 points will be an A, 320-359 will be a B, 280-319 will be a C, etc.

**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***

Midterm Exam– Thursday, May 22, 2008...9:00-10:30 am

‘W’ Day - Friday, May 23, 2008

Final Exam – Tuesday, June 3, 2008...9:00-10:30 am

***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).