

Tallahassee Community College
FALL SEMESTER 2009
MAT 0024 Elementary Algebra
Ref #76537
4 Semester Hours (NON-CREDIT)
[Comprised of 3 hours per week in class
and 1 hour per week of flexible lab]
TR 8:35-9:50 CH 264



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Office Hours: M- 10:10-11:35, 12:40-2:30
T- 12:35-2:00 W- 8:30-9:00, 10:10-11:25, 2:00-2:30
R- 12:35-2:00 F- 10:10-11:25
Learning Commons: T- 11:30-12:30 W- 12:50-2:00
R- 11:30-12:30 F- 8:00-8:55

Welcome!

I look forward to working with you toward your success this semester. This is a course designed to prepare students for MAT 1033 which is an Intermediate Algebra course. Building a conceptual understanding of the material is the ultimate goal, so we will write, think, and talk about material throughout the term. You will learn to solve problems and to take advantage of technology to assist in your learning.

A syllabus is intended to clearly lay out the goals and expectations of a course. It matters very much to me that this syllabus is clear and leaves you without questions regarding the “business” of the classroom. However, it is also important to me that it sets the tone for our semester together as learners.

There is usually a place in the syllabus where the professor addresses cell phones, disruptive behaviors, talking during instruction, texting, walking in late, leaving early, etc, etc. You will not find that in this syllabus. I can sum up my thoughts on such things very simply; my only policy is that any behavior that is not a positive contribution to the learning environment will be handled with the best interests of the group in mind. We are a large group of people with different levels of preparation, backgrounds, and long term goals. We do, however, all have a responsibility to each other while the same short term goal is pursued: your individual success in this course.

I immensely enjoy teaching and the opportunity it affords me to work with students. You can expect me to bring my passion for teaching, a sense of humor, and a sense of fairness to the classroom. All I ask of you is that you hold yourself to a standard that reflects the commitment you have made to yourself. I absolutely expect that you will maintain an attitude reflecting that commitment and respect for your colleagues who are diligently working toward their goals. We are all in this together.

I know we'll have a great semester. We'll have some fun (yes, I said fun!!) and do a lot of learning. My hope is that no matter what your goals are, you will leave this course with a good mathematical foundation and confidence in your abilities as a student.

Please let me know how I can help you be successful this semester!

TEACHING MISSION

Tallahassee Community College is an open-admission, comprehensive community college. Its mission is to provide excellence in teaching and learning through educational programs that promote the intellectual, social and personal development of students; assist them in developing the ability to think critically, creatively and reflectively; and prepare them for productive and satisfying lives.

CRITICAL THINKING

The faculty is committed to creating a learning environment for all students which promotes, encourages, and fosters higher order thinking skills and critical thinking skills that are grounded in an understanding of the fundamental concepts of the disciplines in which they are taught.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pre-requisite: Appropriate score on CPT and ALEKS assessment or completion of MAT0012.

MAT0024, Beginning Algebra, is a course for students who possess basic arithmetic skills and have some background in algebra, but have not demonstrated the algebra skills necessary to be successful in college level mathematics courses. The course is designed to supplement and strengthen the skills the student possesses, and to give the student the needed skills required for successful completion of MAT1033, Intermediate Algebra. The course focuses on algebraic concepts and skills for solving equations and inequalities, applying the laws of exponents to simplify polynomials, factoring polynomial expressions and using factoring to solve equations, graphing linear equations in two variables, and performing basic operations with radical expressions. Successful completion of MAT0024 requires students to pass the class with a grade of "C" or better and to achieve a passing score on a State mandated exit exam. The course is delivered through a variety of methods including traditional lecture supported by electronic/web-based technology, interactive multimedia, express sessions. The course is four (4) credit hours of institutional credit, one (1) hour of which is a lab hour. MAT0024 carries no degree credit.

COURSE GOAL

The goal of Beginning Algebra (MAT0024) is for students to develop an algebraic foundation for Intermediate Algebra along with effective critical thinking skills related to mathematics. Additionally, it is expected that students will develop independent learning skills.

EXTRA ASSISTANCE

MY OFFICE HOURS are scheduled for you. Feel free to come by my office during these times as often as you wish (no appointment necessary). It is during this time that I can address any individual difficulties you may be having with the material. Also, please be aware that your overall experience at TCC is important to me and if there is anything with which I can be of assistance, I would be glad to help.

TCC LEARNING COMMONS(LC 30, www.tcc.fl.edu/learningcommons, 850.201.8193) provides one-stop convenient access to expanded learning assistance and resources. The Math and Science area offers support in all level of mathematics. Students can work independently or in small groups while having access to resources including: trained tutors, specialists and learning assistants, videos, textbooks, calculators, an open-access computer lab and much more. I have listed the times that I will be in the Learning Commons on the front page of this syllabus.

The TCC Learning Commons is open: Monday – Thursday 7:30am – 9:00pm, Friday 7:30am – 5:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 2:00pm

STUDY GROUPS are strongly recommended. Working with other students can be extremely beneficial. I will facilitate the exchange of contact information during the second week of class and encourage you to communicate with your peers.

COUNSELORS AND STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISORS are located in the Student Union and are eager to see you succeed. There is staff available to assist you with both academic and personal issues.

Please take advantage of the support we offer. Make this a successful semester!

TEXTBOOK, SOFTWARE, ADDITIONAL REQUIRED MATERIALS

Introductory Algebra: A Real World Approach; 3rd Edition; Bello; McGraw-Hill, 2007.

MathZone, ALEKS

A \$96 course fee assessed with enrollment in MAT 0024 provides each student with the ALEKS Diagnostic Assessment, access to the ALEKS courseware and MathZone, and the customized textbook for the course.

Recommended: Four function calculator and guided notes (available in the TCC bookstore)

CALCULATORS

A stand-alone basic four function (non-scientific, non-graphing, with no +/- key) calculator may be used. Other electronic devices that may include a calculator may not be used in class, i.e. cell phones, laptops, pda's, etc. Calculators will not be provided and may not be shared in class.

GRADING RATIONALE

Test #1.....15%

Test #2.....15%

Test #3.....15%

Test #4.....15%

Lab.....20%

Homework(Quizzes).....20%

Your final grade will be calculated upon completion of Test #4 and only those students with a "C" or better will be permitted to sit for the State Exit Test.

IMPORTANT

TO ENROLL IN MAT 1033 YOU MUST HAVE BOTH A C OR BETTER AVERAGE (70% OR HIGHER) IN MAT 0024, AND A PASSING SCORE OF AT LEAST 70% ON THE EXIT TEST.

The State Exit Test will be administered during final exam week. Students whose average is below 70% will be required to repeat the course. Those students who have a C average or better but do not pass the Exit Exam will be given one chance to pass an Exit Test retake on the last day of the exam week. If that is not passed, the student will receive a grade of "D" in the course.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Remedial Section of House Bill 1545, passed by the Florida Legislature effective Fall term 1995, states that all students enrolled in a college preparatory course must achieve a passing score on an Exit Examination.

HOMEWORK (QUIZZES)

Homework will be assigned following each concept and completion is an integral part of the learning process. Your homework will be completed using MathZone, the software that accompanies your text. It is the expectation that you will complete the assignment for a learned objective before the next class meeting. Please be advised that at 11:00 pm the night before each unit test, the homework window will close and you will not have the ability to make up the assignment after that deadline.

TESTS

There will be four unit tests this semester. You will be required to demonstrate an understanding of the material covered. Because continual review is a critical part of concept retention, approximately 20% of tests 2-4 will cover previously tested material. **MAKE-UPS** will be allowed on a case-by-case basis if documentation of an event that precluded your ability to be in class on that day is provided.

ALEKS

ALEKS is a web-based series of Learning Modules designed to allow you to work specifically on the topics you need in order to achieve success in mathematics. ALEKS will be used as the flexible lab portion of your course grade (20%). This will be based on your mastery of the topics and skills identified as those needing remediation.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is critical to your success and is therefore required. *It is your responsibility to attend class regularly.* A student absent from class bears full responsibility for all subject matter and procedural information covered. Mathematics is a complex subject and material covered is many times reliant on previous knowledge. Missing even one day may be detrimental to your success.

WITHDRAWAL

Please be advised that I do not utilize TCC's AW option. If for any reason you are unable to complete this course, you must withdraw yourself no later than November 4th, to avoid receiving a grade of F. Florida law states that a student may attempt any college prep class only twice at the in-state tuition rate. This semester will count as an attempt if you withdraw after August 28th, which is the last day that a student can withdraw and receive a refund. A student may have a maximum of three attempts at any college preparatory course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the TCC Student Conduct Code (see student handbook). Students caught cheating, or representing someone else's work as their own will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and, depending upon the circumstances may be subject to further disciplinary action.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:

1. Register with and provide documentation to Disabled Student Services.
2. Inform the instructor of any special arrangements needed to accommodate their needs.
3. Disabled student services can be reached at 201-8271 or via email at dsstesting@tcc.fl.edu.

PACING SCHEDULE:

The following is an intended pacing schedule for the semester. The material listed for each day will be explained in class and the homework corresponding to that material should be completed prior to the next class.

Tuesday	8/25	Introduction
Thursday	8/27	Real Number Review
Tuesday	9/1	1.1 The Addition and Subtraction Properties of Equality 1.2 The Multiplication and Division Properties of Equality
Thursday	9/3	1.3 Linear Equations 1.4 Integer Problem Solving
Tuesday	9/8	1.4 Integer Problem Solving 1.5 Ratio, Proportions and Applications Review
Thursday	9/10	Review/Test #1
Tuesday	9/15	2.1 Linear Inequalities
Thursday	9/17	2.2 Graphing Equations in Two Variables
Tuesday	9/22	2.2 Graphing Equations in Two Variables
Thursday	9/24	2.3 Slope 2.4 Slope Intercept Form Review
Tuesday	9/29	Review/Test #2
Thursday	10/1	3.1 The Product, Quotient and Power Rules for Exponents
Tuesday	10/6	3.2 Integer Exponents
Thursday	10/8	3.3 Scientific Notation 3.4 Polynomial Introduction
Tuesday	10/13	3.5 Adding and Subtracting Polynomials 3.6 Multiplication of Polynomials
Thursday	10/15	3.7 Special Products of Polynomials 3.8 Dividing Polynomials
Tuesday	10/20	3.9 Finding Roots 3.10 Multiplication of Radicals
Thursday	10/22	3.11 Addition and Subtraction of Radicals
Tuesday	10/27	Review
Thursday	10/29	Test #3
Tuesday	11/3	4.1 Introduction to Factoring
Thursday	11/5	4.2 Factoring
Tuesday	11/10	4.3 Factoring
Thursday	11/12	4.4 Factoring 4.5 Factoring Summary
Tuesday	11/17	4.6 Solving Quadratic Equations 4.7 Simplifying Rational Expressions
Thursday	11/19	Review
Tuesday	11/24	Test #4
Thursday	11/26	Holiday
Tuesday	12/1	Review for State Exit Test
Thursday	12/3	Review for State Exit Test