Syllabus: Math 154: Elementary Algebra  
Fall 2010, Section 69076

Instructor: Marcella Laddon

Office & Office Hours:

Watsonville ILC: MW 11:30 – 12:30 PM, Aptos Campus 710G TTH 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

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Phone: (831) 479–5734  
Meeting Times: MW 8:30 AM - 10:55 AM, room 4420 Watsonville

Learner Outcomes

This elementary algebra course focuses on linear, quadratic, rational, radical, expressions and equations. Prerequisite: Math 254 or equivalent. Verification of prerequisites is required. If you haven’t taken the Cabrillo College Assessment Test for Math 154 or had a counselor verify another college’s prerequisite courses, you must do so prior to registering for the course. As a student in this class, you will:

1. Apply general mathematical concepts and principles to perform arithmetic computations on algebraic expressions.
2. Choose appropriate methods and then solve equations, inequalities and systems of equations.
3. Create, use, and analyze analytical and graphical representations of mathematical models.

Course Materials

- The text for this course Introductory Algebra for College Students 4th or 5th edition by Robert Blitzer.
- You will need a scientific calculator (not a graphing calculator) for this course.

Resources and Accommodations

I encourage students with disabilities, including “invisible” disabilities to explain their needs and appropriate accommodations to me. Please bring a verification of your disability from the Learning Skills or DSPS offices along with a counselor’s recommendations.

The Math Learning Center (Room 1074), the Watsonville ILC (Room 4410), and the Scotts Valley Resource Center (Room 02), are locations for drop-in tutoring. Please also remember that I am always willing to help. I am available during office hours to discuss any aspect of the course, course material, or your educational goals. Your classmates are also excellent resources; form study groups early in the semester. Chances are that you will need help of outside resources at some point during the semester … make sure you know what resources are available to you.

Student Responsibilities

Your success strongly depends on your organization, motivation, determination and commitment to this course. All of these attributes will allow you to prioritize your schedule so that you have the amount of time necessary to complete this course. It is your responsibility to keep up with the material even if you miss class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from someone else in this class. Also, discuss the notes with others, and then come ask me questions about the material. On time daily attendance is required for success in this course.

Note:  No IPODS or MP3 players and all cell phones will be on vibrate or turned off during class.

Attendance & Tardiness

I will drop students for lack of attendance during the first two days of the semester to make room for students on the waiting list. Any student with a total of four absentees will be dropped from the course. Note that two instances of tardiness results in one absentee, and also any instance of leaving class early will be treated as a tardy. A person is tardy to class if he/she is not in his/her chair when the class starts at 8:30 AM. Please come see me if you have any questions.
Assessments/Grade Components

Homework: 15%
Homework will be assigned every class period and collected on Tuesday of the following week. You must do and show all your work for every problem assigned to receive full credit on the homework. Many of the homework problems are likely to appear on the exams, the final exam, and most definitely on the weekly quizzes. If you have any trouble with any of the homework problems, you are encouraged to come to my office hours or seek help at the MLC or at the Watsonville ILC (see Resources and Accommodations above). I also strongly encourage you to keep up with homework assignments, as this is the best way to learn math. Everything we do in this course builds upon the previous concepts. Getting behind is always disastrous, but even more so in this mathematics course. One way I can ensure that you do not fall behind the class is through collecting homework assignments frequently. Thus, late homework is not accepted. I am, however, a reasonable person. If you need to discuss any extenuating circumstances, please come see me.

I strongly advocate that you study in groups together so that you feel comfortable formulating and asking questions in class. If you have a question, someone else almost certainly has the same question and perhaps more!! Pairs or groups of three always seem to work best.

Quizzes/Participation: 20%
I will give a quiz every week. Frequent quizzes provide a touchstone to evolving understanding by measuring student progress and instructor expectation. These quizzes will consist of a few problems, which will be taken directly from the lecture, homework, or be very similar to problems from the homework. Thus, if you can successfully complete all of the homework problems, the quizzes should pose no difficulty. The fact that quizzes and participation account for 20% of your grade should make it clear how important I feel homework is as well as how important it is for you to seek help if you don’t understand something.

As far as participation goes, I expect everyone to contribute to class. I also count office hour visits toward participation. It goes without saying that if you are not in class; you will not be able to participate.

Three Exams: 45% (15% each)
If you score below 60% on the first exam, you MUST make arrangements to meet with me and discuss your test within one week of the exam or you will receive no credit for the exam.

Final Exam: 20%
You must score at least 60% on the final exam and have an overall grade of 69.5% in order to pass the class with a grade of C or better.

Course Grade
Your grade is computed as a weighted average: .15(your homework score) +.20(your quiz/participation score) +.15(test 1 score) +.15(test 2 score) +.15(test 3 score) +.20(final exam score). I do not curve grades. I will use standard grading scale, so letter grades correspond to the following ranges of averages: A [90-100], B [80-89], C [70-79], D [60-69], F [0-59]. To go on to the next course in the math sequence you must earn a grade of C or higher in this course. This course is not available on a pass/no pass basis. Please keep all graded papers so you can verify grades in the event of a bookkeeping error on my part. I will post all of your scores in Blackboard so that you can keep track of them throughout the semester.

Academic Integrity
Cheating is a serious offense and may be punished by a warning, administrative probation, suspension, and expulsion from Cabrillo College. Additionally, the student is subject to any academic penalty imposed by their instructor. Any person caught cheating will receive a grade of zero for the exam/quiz/assignment; a second offense will result in a grade of F for the course. Cheating is an act of obtaining, or attempting to obtain, credit for academic work through the use of a dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. During examinations, I expect all of you to put away of all your notes, books, etc. I expect there to be no talking, and no wandering eyes. The student is responsible to make it abundantly clear to me that he or she is not cheating.

Important Dates
September 4 . . . . . . . . . . . ~Deadline to add or register for a full-term course
September 10 . . . . . . . . . ~ Deadline to drop a full-term course and receive a reversal of charges
September 25 . . . . . . . . . ~ Deadline to drop a full-term course without a permanent record "W"
October 2, . . . . . . . . . . . . ~ Deadline to request pass/no pass option (not an option for Math 154)
November 20 . . . . . . . . . ~ Deadline to withdraw from full-term course
December 15. . . . . . . . . . . . ~ Final Exam, Wednesday 12/15, from 7:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Please feel free to frequent my office hours for help