Spring 2010 Syllabus
Math 154 – Elementary Algebra
Section #66782, TTh 02:10-04:35pm, Room 711

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Office Hrs: MW 10:30am -11:00am
TTh 12:25pm- 02:00pm
or by appointment

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

Prerequisite: This course is open to students who have earned a “C” or better in math 254 (or equivalent) or have been placed in math 154 by the Cabrillo Assessment exam.

Text and Calculator: The required text is Introductory Algebra, 5th Edition, by Blitzer. You are also required to get a scientific calculator (non-graphing) for this course. Cell phone calculators may NOT be used in the classroom at any time.

Attendance: Since I introduce new material every class day, your attendance is vital to your success in this class. You are responsible for all material covered in class, whether or not you are present. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate and come prepared to the next class. If you have excessive absences, you may be dropped from the class. Plan to attend class regularly, arrive on time, and stay for the whole class.
Homework: Although your attendance is important, you will not learn math just by watching someone else do it. If you want to become good at anything, you must practice. The assigned homework problems are your opportunity to practice and absorb what you’ve seen in class. Homework will be assigned every class meeting and collected regularly. The homework assignments will be posted on my website. It is crucial that you keep up with your math homework, so that you are ready to move on to the next topic the following class. Doing a little math homework every day result in better retention than if you do all the homework at once. Make sure you set aside a little time every day to do exercises and/or review old problems. You are encouraged to work together on the homework, but your work should be your own. To receive full credit on your homework, you have to turn it in on time, clearly number the problems, do the problems in order, write neatly, do all the problems, do them correctly, and show all necessary work. See handout for more information about homework rules. I will accept ONE late homework assignment, which has to be turned in within one week of its original due date. Any late homework after that will receive 0 points. Homework is considered late if it is not turned in at the time of collection.

Quizzes: There will be a 10-point quiz given almost every week, with problems based on the previous week’s homework and lectures. There are no make-up quizzes, but I will drop your one lowest quiz score. You cannot use a calculator for the quizzes.

Exams: There will be four midterms, each worth 100 points. If you are unable to attend class on the scheduled exam day, you have to contact me before the exam, so that we can make alternate arrangements. There are no make-up exams in this course. I will let you know ahead of time which exams you are allowed to use calculators on.

Final Exam: There will be a 200-point comprehensive final exam on Tuesday, June 1, from 1:00pm to 3:50 pm in this room.

Grading: I give no grades; you earn them. The grading scale below will be used to determine your letter grade. A pass/no pass option is not available for this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible points</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework 50 pts</td>
<td>90-100% A (675.0-750.0 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes 100 pts</td>
<td>80-89.5% B (600.0-674.5 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams 400 pts</td>
<td>70-79.5% C (525.0-599.5 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam 200 pts</td>
<td>60-69.5% D (450.0-524.5 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 750 pts</td>
<td>0-59.5% F (below 450.0 pts)</td>
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**Dropping:** If you plan on dropping the class, it is your responsibility to call Hawk Talk, use WebAdvisor on-line, or go to the Admissions and Records office.

**Resources:**
- Yours truly, me. It is my job to help you learn mathematics and I love my job! I want you to succeed and I am willing to help whenever possible. Please do not hesitate to come to me if you need any extra help.
- The Math Learning Center (MLC) is located on the Aptos campus, room 1074. Here you can get free tutoring, you can borrow books and calculators, view math videos, use computers, study together with your classmates, etc.
- The Integrated Learning Center (ILC) is located at the Watsonville center. Here you can also get free tutoring in math, as well as study together with classmates.
- Scotts Valley Resource Center and Math Lab is located at the Scotts Valley Center and they offer free tutoring as well.

**Accommodations:** As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations are provided to ensure equal opportunity for students with verified disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for this class are invited to meet with me during my office hours to discuss your needs as soon as possible. Prior to meeting with me, you should meet with a Disabled Student Services counselor or a Learning Disabilities Specialist (for learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder) to officially verify your disability and obtain an Accommodations Request Form.

**For accommodations, contact:**
- Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSP&S): 479-6379, Room 810 (Aptos)
- Learning Skills Program: 479-6220, Room 1073 (Aptos), Learning Resources
Class information and rules:
- Please respect the rights of your classmates to hear and learn from this classroom experience; turn off and put away cell phones and pagers before the beginning of the class (off – not vibrate mode), do not wander in and out of the classroom during class period, and refrain from talking to your neighbors when I am speaking.
- When working with other class members, please be encouraging, positive, and helpful.
- I expect you to actively participate in discussions and in-class assignments. Ask questions in class; chances are that others have the same question. If you have questions that pertain mainly to you, please ask them before or after class, or during my office hours.
- Cheating will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of the student to make it clear to me that he or she is not cheating; during exams and quizzes there should be no talking whatsoever, no cell phone use of any sort, and no wandering eyes. Anyone who willingly allows his/her work to be copied will also be considered to be cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the exam/quiz. The second offense will result in a grade of “F” for the course. All cheating offenses will be reported.
- No cell phone use of any sort is allowed in the classroom – including texting.

Helpful Hints:
- Do your homework regularly – not just before it is due.
- Embrace your mistakes. Learning requires mistakes.
- Read your textbook. Try to read a section before I cover it in class; even if you only grasp half of it, it will help you understand the lecture much better. Also, read the section and look through the examples before you start your homework.
- Join or create study groups.
- Use the MLC to get answers to your questions as you work on your homework.
- It is crucial that you seek help when you don’t understand something. Do not fall behind. Sometimes you might think it is hard to keep up, but it is harder still to catch up.
- Keep a positive attitude.

Welcome to Math 154 !!!