

GENERAL COURSE SYLLABUS-MATH0315- BEGINNING ALGEBRA

Department: Mathematics and Engineering

Discipline: Mathematics

Semester: Fall 2015

Course Number: Math 0315

Course Title: Beginning Algebra

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 1

Available Formats: Conventional

Campus: Levelland Campus and Reese Campus

Textbook: *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra*, 3rd edition by Sullivan, Struve, and Mazzarella

Supplies: Writing utensils, 3-ring binder, and graph paper

Course Description: This course is an introduction to algebra and is designed for those students who need MATH0320 and have not had one year of high school algebra. It includes properties of signed numbers, algebraic expressions, linear equations in one unknown and geometry. Time in a lab is required. This course is required if testing indicates a need.

Course Purpose/Rational/Goal: To provide a transferable course in the elements of beginning algebra.

Equal Opportunity: South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or age.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit Linda Young at 716-2577 (Levelland) or Dawn Valles at 716-4675 (Reese).

Course Requirements: To maximize the potential to complete the course, a student should attend all class meetings, take notes, participate in class, complete all homework assignments, and demonstrate mastery (at least 70%) on all exams including the final examination.

Course Evaluation: Please see the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Attendance: Required, if you want to pass the class. Excessive absences (based on instructor) may result in an administrative withdrawal.

THE CLASS

**Math0315.004
Beginning Algebra
SPRING 2018
Days: MW
Room: M128**

**Total Time: 12:30-2:15pm
Questions from Students: 12:30-12:35pm
Lecture: 12:35-1:25pm
Break: 1:25-1:30pm
Lab Assignment: 1:30-2:15pm**

Textbook: *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra*, 4th edition by Sullivan, Struve, and Mazarella. Textbook is OPTIONAL.

Purpose: Provides students with basic, important fundamentals of algebra

Goal: Earn a “C” or better to advance to next level

Next Level: Math0320 – Intermediate Algebra

THE PROFESSOR

Alan Worley
Chairperson of Mathematics & Engineering Department
(806)716-2645

Email: aworley@southplainscollege.edu

Office: Room120 in Math Building

Office Hours:

Monday: 10:45-11:30am, 2:15-3:00pm

Tuesday: 1:30-2:30pm

Wednesday: Same as Monday

Thursday: Same as Tuesday

Friday: 1:15-4:15pm

Or by appointment

Background:

Years Experience: 20

College/Degree: New Mexico State University (M.S. in Biostatistics)

**Other Duties at SPC: Chairperson of Math/Computer
Science/Engineering & Athletic Mentor for Math Department**

Pet Peeves:

Anybody who accepts underachievement
Cell phone addiction

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Add, subtract, multiply, and divide real numbers
2. Use order of operations to simplify an expression
3. Evaluate an algebraic expression given a replacement set
4. Solve equations and applications
5. Solve systems of equations
6. Solve linear inequalities
7. Graphing, slopes, and linear equations
8. Apply the laws of exponents to simplify an algebraic expression
9. Add, subtract, multiply, and divide algebraic expressions
10. Determine the factors of an algebraic expression
11. Evaluate and understand functions

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RECIPE FOR SUCCESS-MATHEMATICS

We have students in the class from various backgrounds. This is your first college math class for some of you. However, some of us are repeating this class. Some of us have not had a math class in x number of years, and we need to refresh our math skills. Some of us have an adequate math background, whereas the rest of us have a weak math background. The speed of this class will focus more on the weak students rather than the stronger ones. If we cover a topic that seems easy to you, I will find something challenging for you. What you find easy might be very difficult to another student. Please respect this. Being extremely confused is not a good feeling. All of us have been there before.

I would like for each of you to ask yourself the following question: Why am I in college? I hope that you are not here because: 1) that's what I SHOULD do 2) what my parents said I SHOULD do, or 3) I'm here to avoid working full-time. I hope that you are in college, because you WANT to be here in order to achieve your goals and reach your dreams. If your dreams do not involve college, then you shouldn't be here. You need to go do something else. For example, if you want to be in a rock band, move to a big city and go for this dream. College will still be here, if that doesn't work out for you.

I believe that each individual can be successful in college and earn his/her degree. However, 35% that begin college never complete it. Why do 65% fail?

Here are the top 5 reasons why students do not succeed in college:

- 1). Bad work ethic (Laziness)**
- 2). Bad study habits**
- 3). Bad time management**
- 4). Bad attitude**
- 5). Financial or family chaos**

Notice that none of these reasons include a lack of intelligence. South Plains College has so many resources to help you, that you should use them. Plus, most of these resources are free.

I hope that you are here for the right reasons. If you are, you have a good chance for success. If you possess one of "bad reasons", then you probably won't succeed. Thus, you are wasting your time this semester. As you will find out this week, this is a different kind of class. This class rewards students for their work. Students who attend class, have a good attitude, and willing to complete bonus assignments will be rewarded.

You can pass this class.

I want you to pass this class. Do you???

RESOURCES

1. Your professor:

I urge all students to see me at my office (M120), email me (aworley@southplainscollege.edu), or call me (716- 2645). I'm here to help you reach your goals.

2. FREE tutoring:

Free math tutoring is available throughout the week in the math building in Levelland, Room 116. Math tutors are also available at the Reese campus (Building 2) and Lubbock Center. Tutors and times will be posted around the second week of classes outside M120 in the math building.

3. Textbook:

The textbook, *Elementary & Intermediate Algebra, 4th ed.* by Sullivan, Struve, and Mazarella can be purchased through one of South Plains College bookstores. If you choose to use a textbook without buying it, please check out the textbook from the SPC library in Levelland or SPC library at Reese (Building 8). You can not leave the library with the textbook, but you can make copies for a small fee or use your phone to take pictures.

4. MyMathLab:

You can use MyMathLab for practice problems, instructional videos, online textbook, and online assistance. You need an access code to register. Each new textbook is packaged with an access code. An access code can be purchased at one of the SPC libraries, if you do not buy a textbook. The cheapest alternative is to pay directly with a credit card (cost – about \$120) when you register online at www.mymathlab.com. For more information, contact me.

5. My office (RM 120):

I will give you access to any solutions for any bonus or practice problems. You can get these at the end of each class or in my office. I will have a folder in my office titled Math0315 solutions. Feel free to walk in my office and check solutions. The solutions need to stay in or near my office.

6. Learning Center (Administration Building)

If you have a learning disability of any type, please visit the learning center. They can provide you with extra resources to help you be successful. You even have the option of taking your exams at the learning center with extra time, but you must register and qualify for services.

7. Free Math Videos:

Visit SPC's website, www.southplainscollege.edu. At the top right of the home page, click on Blackboard. Blackboard will ask for a user name and password. Use the following for both: mvideos. What will you find here? You will find videos (ordered by topic) from SPC professors and handouts (PDF) that accompany most videos. This is a great resource to use if you missed class, did not fully understand the lesson, or just simply forgot the lesson. Kahn's Academy is also a very popular source for students.

GRADING POLICY

All students will be required to complete lab assignments, 3 exams, and 1 comprehensive final exam.

Exam 1: 20%
Exam 2: 20%
Exam 3: 20%
Comprehensive Final: 25%
Lab Assignments: 15%

NOTE: Your lowest exam score will be replaced by the comprehensive final exam score, provided that it is higher.

There are also recommended bonus problems available. Successful completion of these bonus problems will serve 3 purposes:

First, you can earn 5 points to each exam, if you complete all bonus problems. Completion of bonus problems includes showing all work (where applicable) without plagiarism. Students are encouraged to HELP each other, get assistance from free tutoring available, and get assistance from your instructor. The bonus problems are due at the beginning of each exam, but it is recommended that you complete the bonus problems by the lecture (review) before the exam. By doing this, you will get feedback and help on any problems. You will also get access to the solutions. Thus, you can correct these problems (if any) and use the available time for study.

Second, perfect practice makes perfect. Students that complete and understand the bonus problems should do well on the exams.

Third, students that complete the bonus problems will have the opportunity to abide by a more favorable grading scale, as seen below.

Grading Scale

GROUP 1

A: 88.5% or higher
B: 78.5% to 88.5%
C: 67.5% to 78.5%
PR: any average less than 67.5%

GROUP 2

A: 90% or higher
B: 80% to 90%
C: 70% to 80%
D: 60% to 70%
F: less than 60%

NOTE: PR replaces a D or F. Any student with a PR, D, or F must repeat the class. However, a PR doesn't affect the student's GPA or financial aid status.

GROUP 1 students must satisfy the following conditions: 2 or fewer absences, complete bonus problems for every exam, demonstrate strong work ethic in the classroom.

Lab assignment deductions: 5 percentage points:

25 percentage points:

Tardiness. 5 points for attending class after 8:10am
Disrespect for fellow students or professor
Falling asleep in class
Cell-phone ringing during class.
Cell-phone use during class, such as texting.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A record of attendance is required by South Plains College throughout the entire semester. Why? South Plains College loses a substantial amount of money when students cash financial aid checks, but do not attend class and earn F's. When this happens, tuition and fees may increase. Everyone wants to avoid this, and South Plains College does a good job to help prevent this. Therefore, it is critical to maintain a good attendance record in this class. The attendance in this class is reflected on your lab assignment grade.

On every lab assignment, you will get points for being in class, both physically and mentally. If for some reason you leave early, you will still turn in your uncompleted lab assignment. However, you will still earn the attendance points. Attendance points are based upon your presence and attitude during the lecture time. Remember, 2 or more unexcused absences will place you in the Group 2 grading scale. School-related absences are excused (Make sure you bring your paper for me to sign).

What if I do not finish the lab assignment?

If you are not able to complete the lab assignment by 2:15pm, then I will grant an extension without penalty. I will only grant this extension after 2:10pm.

Can I make-up a lab assignment that I missed?

Yes. Whether the absence was excused or unexcused, I propose that we use my office hours on Friday afternoon. I will go over the lecture with you, and then you will complete the lab assignment in my office or in a room next to my office. You will be granted one week for any make-ups. When the week expires, your lab assignment that was missed will be 0.

When can I withdraw or drop a class?

The last day to withdraw from a class is April 26th. However, most of you are not allowed (for various reasons) to withdraw from this class, because it is considered a remedial class.

What is the policy for excessive absences?

Students will be dropped from a class for excessive absences. Why? See the first paragraph. Excessive absences in this class will be the following: 4 consecutive absences or a total of 7 absences. When a student reaches excessive absences, the student will be assigned an "F". Again, this does not include school-related absences. Also, I understand that people get sick; we have children that get sick; have to go to court; funerals; etc. All that I ask is that you send me an email or call me when you have to miss class. We can work something out. It becomes a problem when you show up every once in awhile or quit attending without any explanation or reason.

Class: Math 0315
 Instructor: Alan Worley

Semester: Spring 2018
 Office: M120

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Jan. 17 Assessment Quiz		
Jan. 22 Add/Subtract Real Numbers		Jan. 24 Multiply/Divide Real Numbers		
Jan. 29 Order of Operations		Jan. 31 Simplify Alg. Expressions		
Feb. 5 Solve Linear Equations		Feb. 7 Solve Linear Equations		
Feb. 12 Applications of Linear Equations		Feb. 14 EXAM 1 REVIEW		
Feb. 19 EXAM 1		Feb. 21 More Linear Eq. Applications		
Feb. 26 Solve Linear Inequalities		Feb. 28 Graphing		
Mar. 5 Slope of a line Graph Lin. Eq.		Mar. 7 Monomials		
Mar. 12 Spring Break		Mar. 14 Spring Break		
Mar. 19 Systems of Equations		Mar. 21 EXAM 2 REVIEW		
Mar. 26 EXAM 2		Mar. 28 Add/Subtract Polynomials		
Apr. 2 Easter Holiday		Apr. 4 Multiply Polynomials		
Apr. 9 GCF and Factor by Grouping		Apr. 11 Factor Trinomials		
Apr. 16 Factor Trinomials		Apr. 18 Factor Binomials		
Apr. 23 EXAM 3 REVIEW		Apr. 25 EXAM 3	Apr. 26 Last Day to Withdraw	
Apr. 30 Solving Quadratic Equations		May 2 FINAL EXAM REVIEW		
		May 9 Final Exam!		