Cuyamaca College

Beginning Algebra

Mathematics FALL 2013 **Math 90-1832**
Instructor: James Christensen **Units: 5**
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or james.christensen@gcccd.edu

SCHEDULE		
MON: 7:30 TO 8:20 **Lab: ROOM H119**	**MON: 8:30 TO 10:20** **Lecture: ROOM H134**	**WED: 7:30 TO 10:20** **Lecture:ROOM H134**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The tools of algebra are required anytime we want a precise answer to questions such as How many..?, How much..?, How big..? Math 90 is a fast paced course reviewing these tools and preparing you for a more advanced intermediate algebra course such as Math 103 or Math 110. During the coming four months you will study variable expressions, linear and quadratic equations, inequalities, graphing concepts, factoring and systems of equations. Getting a good grade in this class starts with a DECISION on the very first day. Make the commitment, do the work, and success will follow.

COURSE MATERIALS

Text: **Beginning and Intermediate Algebra by Bittinger, Ellenbogen and Johnson**
ISBN-13: 978-1-256-97660-8
If you choose to purchase the book, it must be purchased at Cuyamaca College Bookstore. This book is probably not available on-line because it is special to the college.

MyMathLab: You will need to purchase a MyMathLab **ACCESS CODE** to participate in the lab. The lab website contains an ebook copy of the text. The text (pdf) may be downloaded from the site but it has been secured and cannot be printed although individual pages may be printed by means of a screen capture.

Calculator: A Scientific Calculator is **required**. In addition to the usual math functions your calculator must do square roots, scientific notation and numbers to arbitrary powers. I can help you with the TI calculators; you are on your own with anything else. Cell phones and other types of communication devices are not an acceptable substitute for a calculator.

The TI-30x or TI-36x are very good inexpensive scientific calculators suitable for the purposes of this course and I urge you to purchase one of these calculators.

COURSE WORK

Completing the course successfully involves satisfactory performance on tests, quizzes, homework, group work, and computer lab work. This 5-unit course requires at least 10 hours of homework per week. If you cannot spend at least this amount of time on your homework, RECONSIDER your plans and priorities. You are expected to attend class fully prepared with your textbook, notebook, pencils, eraser and calculator. For our graphing work you will need quad-ruled paper and a simple straightedge such as a clear plastic ruler. Pens should not be used for math.

Computer Lab- Success in this class depends on doing the written homework and the Math Lab assignments routinely. The computer lab is part of this course and cannot be skipped. I take attendance and individuals that skip more than six labs may be dropped. Remember the MATH LAB is part of this course; it is NOT optional and there will be a final exam in this Math Lab.

Homework- Written homework problems are assigned from each section of the text that we are studying. All homework is graded and is due on the day of the test covering the material studied.

Tests - The class will have seven major (chapter) tests. Each test is worth 100 points and there is a comprehensive final worth two chapter tests. You must get 70% course average and 60% on the final to get credit for the class. If you fail the final, you fail the class. You **CANNOT** make-up a missed test.

Final Exam- The final exam is administered in two parts: a lab final and a written final. The lab final contributes 25% to your final exam grade and the lab final must be completed before your written final. The written final is administered in-class and contributes the remaining 75% to your final exam grade.

Schedule and Attendance. The daily class schedule is appended to this syllabus. The schedule is tentative so do not use it to plan days off. You are expected to be in class each scheduled day so if you plan to take a test on a scheduled day then skip the next day you may find that the test has slipped a day and you will be out of luck since there are no makeup tests.

Cheating – Cuyamaca College does not tolerate cheating. In this course the daily in-class work is usually collaborative but you must work alone on the major tests and on the final. Anybody caught cheating on a test will receive a zero for that test and be asked to leave the room. Cell phones and other electronic communications devices are prohibited during a test.

SEATING: I may move students to different seats for a variety of reasons. Chief among these reasons will be to place the more capable students near those who may be having difficulty to facilitate cooperative learning. Students who engage in excessive talking with their neighbors may also be moved at my discretion.

Feel free to email me concerning any math, homework or course problems you may be having. I will do my best to help in any way possible. You are encouraged to get the phone numbers and/or email addresses of other students in your group.

TUTORING: Supervised tutoring is available at the Math Tutoring Lab in Bldg H. To avail yourself of this free service you must sign up for Math 198 and you must be enrolled in one of the standard academic math courses. Although this is a no-credit course, students who actively participate in Math 198 greatly improve their performance in the regular math courses. The math study center is open 9:00 AM- 7:00 PM Monday-Thursday and 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon Friday.

ATTENDANCE

I expect you to attend every class and remain for the entire time and I expect you to be punctual. If you accumulate more than three absences or if you are habitually tardy I may drop you from the class. There will be group work, a graded quiz or a test virtually every class day and these will serve as attendance records. If you do not turn your daily worksheet in, you will be marked absent.

CELL PHONES

The use of cell phones and other types of electronic communication or entertainment equipment is absolutely prohibited during the class and especially during tests.

GRADING PROCESS

Points are earned for successfully completing tests, quizzes, homework, computer lab work, group work and projects. Grades are determined on a percentage of the total points. Math 90 is a Credit/No Credit class. Students who earn at least 70% for the course and 60% on the final will receive a Credit (CR) on their report card. Total points are subject to change.

TASK	TOTAL POINTS	% OF GRADE
Computer Lab, Homework and In-class work	200	20
Chapter Tests	600	60
Final Exam (lab & written)	200	20
TOTAL	1000	100 %

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Cuyamaca College has made provision for individuals with special needs. If you are one of these individuals, you will find, at the front of the classroom, one or two standalone desks and chairs. If you need extra time to do tests or any other special considerations, contact Roberta Gottfreid at DSPS located in the Library (Roberta.Gottfried@gcccd.edu) to make the necessary arrangements

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Ponder these success principles so you can achieve your best from this class.

- Treat this course (and all courses) as if it's the most important thing in your life. Everything is important; don't let anything slide.
- Treat attendance, homework, tests and labs as equally important elements of this course. You are investing a great deal of time and money in this course—don't blow it by not showing up or by skipping assignments.
- We do a lot of in-class work-together problems. Don't shrink from working with other people.
- Homework: Do the homework. Expect to spend 10 hours a week on homework.
- Exchange e-mail and telephone numbers with several people. This is important for two reasons: It helps you and it encourages others to get involved.
- This course requires facility with multiplication tables. If you have troubles in this area, PLEASE, buy some flash cards and practice this important skill. Inexpensive flash cards are available at **Office Depot**.
- You should convince yourself (every day, if necessary) that you can successfully complete all courses and **you are going to get that degree**—no ifs, ands or buts!!

Course Objectives (Expected Student Learning Outcomes)

Students will be able to:

1) Apply the properties of real numbers, order of operations and properties of integer exponents to simplify and reorganize polynomial expressions.

2) Formulate algebraic expressions and equations using variables to represent relations from tables, graphs, problem situations and geometric diagrams.

3) Analyze and solve linear equations, inequalities and two variable systems of linear equations and interpret the solutions.

4) Analyze the connections between the numeric, algebraic, graphic, and verbal representations of linear and quadratic relations.

5) Solve application problems involving linear, quadratic, proportional and rational relationships and interpret the solutions.

6) Apply the principles of radicals in solving quadratic equations and equations resulting from the Pythagorean Theorem.

7) Select and apply appropriate technology to strengthen basic skills and computation procedures.