Math 011 (Online or in class) – Beginning Algebra – Fall 2010 – Syllabus

Instructor: Wally Axmann  
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Phone: 316-978-3969  
Email: axmann@math.wichita.edu  
Text: *Introductory Algebra 11th Ed.*, Bittinger (all chapters)  
Class Website: http://www.math.wichita.edu/~axmann

Attendance  
Class meets online and in class M-F 10:30-11:20. Most classes will start with a question and answer session. Next, I will cover new material for 10 to 30 minutes. The remaining class time will be spent practicing the new concepts. These class sessions will be recorded and posted on the class website so that you can print the notes and/or watch them as a movie. These class sessions are also broadcast live over the Internet and can be accessed from the class website.

Homework  
Doing homework is the most important way to learn the material. General university guidelines suggest 2 hours of homework for each hour in class. There is a homework assignment due essentially every day of class. Homework will count for 30% of your course grade. Homework will be due at 1:00 pm each day. I will give one-week extensions on up to 7 homework assignments for each student, no questions asked. Just send me an email to request an extension. (Like: “Please extend HW set A day 5.”)

Online Homework  
All of the homework for this class is online. You will need to purchase a new Course Compass access key. You may purchase it at the bookstore with or without a book or online at www.coursecompass.com (about $65). Either way you will also need the Course ID which is axmann46167. Further instructions can be found on the class website.

Written Homework  
The online homework has a lot of nice features, but it cannot help you practice writing clear and complete math solutions – which you need to do to pass this, and future, classes. (All in person tests for this class will require you to correctly show your work to all problems on paper.) Because of this, I strongly recommend that for most online problems you also show your work on paper. You can do this by printing out the assignment and writing on the printouts or by keeping a notebook next to your computer as you solve the problems online. If you keep this written work organized in a notebook, it makes a great resource when studying for tests. Since the written homework will not be graded, you should also compare your written solutions to the examples in the book, in class, and in the homework help system to make sure you are writing everything correctly.

Tests  
There will be six, one-hour, tests, each worth 7% of your grade. Test dates will be: Sept 7, Sept 23, Oct 11, Nov 1, Nov 16, and Dec 6. I will generally announce tests a few times the week before they happen, but it is your responsibility to keep track of these test dates. If you must miss a test, you need to let me know about it and make it up before it is scheduled to take place. The only exceptions to this policy are unpredictable accidents and emergencies, which must be documented and made up within a week.

Final Exam  
The Final Exam will make up the remaining 28% of your grade. It will be taken on paper in a classroom on the WSU campus. It will each be 2 hours long and consist of about 30-40 problems. You will be expected to show the complete solution to each problem (not just the “answer”) – just like the examples in the book, in class, and in the homework help system. The Final Exam will be on Saturday, Dec 11 at 1:00-2:50pm. The Mathematics Department requires a certain minimum score on the final exam to receive credit in this course.

Online Testing Option  
You may choose to take your six, one-hour tests online, using Course Compass. Tests will become available the week before the test dates listed above, and be due the day after the test dates listed above at 10:30am. (Note that it is your responsibility to keep track of test dates – make sure that as each of these dates approaches that you click on the “Take Test” button in Course Compass.)

However, if you take online tests, each test will be worth only 4.5% of your grade and you are also required to take a Midterm Exam, which will be worth the remaining 15% of your grade. The Midterm will be taken on paper in a
classroom on the WSU campus. It will be 2 hours long and consist of about 60 problems. You will be expected to show the complete solution to each problem (not just the “answer”) – just like the examples in the book, in class, and in the homework help system. The Midterm will be on Saturday, Oct 16 at 1:00-2:50pm.

Calculators
I encourage you to use a calculator as little as possible. I expect you to write solutions in exact form – not rounded decimals (like \( \frac{1}{3} \) not 0.333… and \( \sqrt{2} \), not 1.41…). I also expect complete solutions – not just the “answer”.

Calculators are not allowed on the Midterm and Final Exams, so it would be best if you get use to doing most of your work without a calculator. However, there are a few parts of the course where a simple calculator can be useful. (You can get a simple calculator for under $5 or use the one on your computer when you need one.)

Grading: Points Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests: 6 @ 7%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>28%</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading: Points Distribution – with online testing option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests: 6 @ 4.5%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>28%</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading: Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used for the course:
- CR (credit) 100-70
- NC (no credit) Below 70

Note however: The Mathematics Department requires a certain minimum score on the final exam to receive credit in this course.

Official Statement on Academic Integrity from [http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/pol63.htm](http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/pol63.htm)

A standard of honesty, fairly applied to all students, is essential to a learning environment. Students violating such standards must accept the consequences, and penalties are assessed by appropriate classroom instructors or other designated persons. Serious cases may result in discipline at the college/school or university level and may result in suspension or dismissal. Students accused of abridging a standard of integrity may protect themselves through established academic appeal procedures and are assured due process and the right of appeal from accusations or penalties felt to be unjust.

My Policy in short: Any breach of academic integrity will result in a zero for the affected assignment(s) – serious breaches may result in a grade of “XF” for the course.

An additional note about cheating in this online course:

An online course like this one provides students with many new ways to cheat – the homework and six online tests are not monitored at all. Taking advantage of that fact not only reflects on your character, it also shows poor judgment. This is a Credit/No Credit remedial course designed to get you ready for future math classes. This class does not impact your GPA at all, cheating will not get you ready for future classes, and it will become obvious to your instructors: on the midterm, on the final, in Math 012, in Math 111, etc… Put your best, honest effort into this class and you will get the most for your time and your money.