Math 111 – College Algebra – Fall 2011 – Syllabus

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Attendance
Class meets MWF 11:30-12:20. 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 20% of your course grade. Homework will be due at 2:00 pm each day. I will give one-week extensions on up to 5 homework assignments for each student, no questions asked. Just send me an email to request an extension. (Like: “Please extend HW 1.3 for John Doe in Math 111”)

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 $80). Either way you will also need the Course ID which is axmann52326. 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 five, one-hour, tests, each worth 10% of your grade. Test dates will be about every 7-8 class days. I will generally announce tests a few times the week before they happen, but it is your responsibility to find out any 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 30% 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 10 at 1:00-2:50pm. The Mathematics Department requires a certain minimum score on the final exam to receive credit in this course.

Calculators
I encourage you to use a calculator as little as possible. In general I expect you to write solutions in exact form – not rounded decimals (like 1/3 not 0.333… and \( \sqrt{2} \) not 1.41…). I also expect complete solutions – not just the “answer”. However, there are a few parts of the course where a simple scientific calculator can be useful. (You can get a simple scientific calculator for under $20 or use the one on your computer when you need one.)
Grading: Points Distribution
Homework: 20%
Tests: 5 @ 10% = 50%
Final Exam: 30%

Grading: Grading Scale
The following grading scale will be used for the course:

93-100 A
90-92 A-
87-89 B+
83-86 B
80-82 B-
77-79 C+
73-76 C
70-72 C-
67-69 D+
63-66 D
60-62 D-
0-59 F

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
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 more serious consequences like failing the course or being dismissed from the University.