

Syllabus for MATH 115-01 – College Algebra
Winter 2009
MTWRF 8–8:50am, Towers 122

Lecturer: Mr. Matthew McMullen

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The prerequisite for this class is a C– or better in MATH 090, or qualification through the department’s placement exam.

Office hours: MWF 9–9:50am, TR 11–11:50am, and by appointment. I will also be tutoring in the Math Tutor room on the second floor of the library MTWRF 12–1pm. Please do not hesitate to visit me during my office hours, or anytime I am in my office, if you need extra help. You can also email me or call me with whatever problems you may have.

Course: The purpose of this course is to present a thorough introduction to basic algebraic concepts and elementary functions. MATH 115 is a prerequisite for many classes at Otterbein and is a **very** important course.

Materials: The textbook we will be using is *College Algebra with Trigonometry*, 8th edition, by Barnett, Ziegler, and Byleen. You will also need a graphing calculator – preferably Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84. We will be using a graphing calculator periodically throughout the quarter.

Attendance: You are expected to be present at all classes and tests. Whenever you miss a class you are strongly encouraged to let me know about the reason of your absence. If you have a conflict with any test, you must see me **in advance**. No make-ups will be given for unexcused absences.

Grades: Homework will be collected every Friday and will make up 10% of your final grade. The weekly assignments will be mentioned in class and posted on my website. We will have quizzes every Friday on the weeks in which we don’t have a midterm. Your five best quiz scores will make up 10% of your final grade. We will have three midterms throughout the quarter, one every third Friday. Collectively, these exams make up 50% of your final grade. **The final for your section is on Tuesday, March 17 from 10:30am–12:30pm.** The final is worth 25% of your final grade. All of this leaves 5% for your attendance and participation grade; this includes, but is not limited to, the groupwork assignments we will have throughout the quarter.

It is anticipated (but in no means set in stone) that the letter grade assignments will be made on the following scale: A 93%, A– 90%, B+ 87%, B 83%, B– 80%, C+ 77%, C 73%, C– 70%, D+ 67%, D 60%, F below 60%.

Academic integrity: It goes without saying that cheating and plagiarism is not tolerated in this course, or any other. If you are guilty of such an act, you will receive a zero for the assignment and I will report the offense to Academic Affairs. More information about this policy can be found in the student handbook.

Advice: In order to succeed in a math course, you must practice the material every day and ask questions in class about any material you do not fully understand. Each section we go over carries over to the next section, so it is important to stay on top of the material. If you are having any difficulties, you have many options available to you. You can visit me in my office, talk to your peers, and/or use the supplemental material that is available to you in the library. This material may be very useful to you and includes the student solution's manual and instructional videotapes. **Good luck and have fun!**

Finally, the tentative text coverage is as follows:

Week 1: Review (§§R-2, R-5, R-6, 1-2, 1-5, 2-1, 2-3, 2-4)

Weeks 2, 3, and 4: Chapter 3 (all sections)

Weeks 5 and 6: Chapter 4 (excluding §4-5)

Weeks 7, 8, and 9: Chapter 5 (all sections)

Week 10: §§11.1 and 11.3