Precalculus I

MA 107–Fall 2001
MTWF 1:30-2:20 pm–HA 314

Instructor: Amy Langville
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Teaching Assistant:
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Course Description and Goals

Precalculus is the necessary prequisite for advanced mathematics and most especially calculus. Here you will become familiar with concepts like: function, root, rational, angle, all of which enable the mathematician to solve some very interesting problems. For example, how much should you save a year to buy a car when you graduate? Or what is the largest size subwoofer you can build out of a 4 by 4 foot piece of medium-density fiberboard?

As a graduate of this course you will be able to do the following:

- explain and define fundamental concepts of precalculus.
- use class concepts to model real-world situations mathematically, thereby increasing your problem-solving skills.
- work in groups efficiently and effectively. Despite the large class size, we will still break into small groups often. You can learn a great deal by engaging with classmates around a key concept or problem.
- use the solid mathematical foundation developed in MA 107 for success in MA 121 or MA 131 or MA 141 (after MA 108 has been completed).

Text

Barnett, Raymond A., Michael R. Ziegler and Karl E. Byleen. *College Algebra with Trigonometry.* Seventh ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2001.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

- Course meets: MTWF
- Attendance: University policy states that attendance must be taken in all 100 and 200 level classes. No distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences. Students with good attendance (5 or fewer absences) will be rewarded by adding 20 points to their WebAssign Total points.
- Test Dates:
  - Test 1 - Fri. Sept. 14 - covers 1.3-1.7, 2.1-2.7
  - Test 2 - Wed. Oct. 10 - covers 2.8, 3.1-3.6
  - Test 3 - Mon. Nov. 12 - covers 4.1-4.4, 5.1-5.5
  - Test 4 - Fri. Nov. 30 - covers 6.1-6.4, 6.6, 6.8
  - FINAL - Fri. Dec. 14, 1-4pm, HA 314, cumulative
- Make-up Tests: University policy requires that all anticipated absences on test days be excused in advance (death in the family, university activity requiring travel). Emergency absences should be reported within 1 week of returning to class. Make-up tests will not be given, instead your final exam grade will count as the percentage of weight associated with the missed test. Note that this is not recommended. Students generally struggle on the final exam due to its cumulative nature, so please plan accordingly and do everything possible to make it to every test.
- Grading scale:
  - 90-100 A
  - 80-89 B
  - 70-79 C
  - 60-69 D
  - 0-59 F
- Grading breakdown:
  - Tests (4) 55 %
  - Final exam 75 %
  - WebAssign, class activities, other 20%

  Note: Students who need to take MA 108 or MA 131 need a C- or better in this class. Students who need to take MA 121 need a D- or better in this class.
- WebAssign: WebAssign homeworks are due periodically throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to keep up with these. Late extensions cannot be given. Please see the course organization schedule for due dates.
- Resources for help:

  - Instructor and TA
  - Multimedia Center - HA 244 - video-taped lectures, computer-assisted tutorials, tutoring
  - One-on-One Tutoring - Nelson 126 - first-come, first-serve
  - Classmates
- Academic Integrity/Disability Services: University policies on academic integrity and disability services will be strictly enforced.

Course Organization