Math 115: Elementary Algebra

Mission College  Spring 2008  MW 9:05 – 11:35 AM  Bung-8  Section # 0135  units=5

Instructor: Hamid Jafari, Ph.D
hamidiariphd@aol.com
Phone: 818-288-0964

Office Hours:
MW (8:15 – 9:05) AM
(In Class B-8 prior to class)

Books & Supplies
Elementary Algebra by Kaufmann.

Bring pencil and paper to class every day. Graphing paper and colored pens or pencils will be helpful.

A scientific calculator is sufficient for this course. If you already own a graphing calculator, you may use this. If you need to purchase a scientific calculator, the Casio fx300W and the TI-30 are inexpensive options.

Calculators will be needed mostly for application problems within the homework. Do not rely on your calculator for the practice exercises. Calculator are not allow on tests, and exam.

Attendance
Daily attendance is expected. Many students find math difficult. It will become more difficult when you do not understand what I am talking about because you missed the previous lecture.

Missing 3 or more classes may cause you to be dropped; however, it is your responsibility to officially drop the course. Should class be cancelled due to a power outage or other reason, please read the material scheduled for that session.

Dates:
Course start 2/4/08, end 6/2/08
March 3 – Drop Without W
March (19-25) – Spring Break
March 29 – Caesar Chavez (College Closed)
May 5 – Drop With W
May 27 – Memorial Day (College Closed),
Final Exam, May 31 Saturday (10:00 AM-12:15PM)

Classroom Policies & Participation

Cell phones should be turned off.
Do not talk in class while lecture is in progress.
No food or beverages are allowed in class with the exception of bottled water.
Individuals will be called upon in class to provide suggestions on how to proceed with a problem.

Course Description

Pre-requisite: Completion of Math 112 with at least a “C” or placement by assessment process.

This course will cover chapters 1-10.

Ch 1 Some Basic Concepts of Arithmetic and Algebra
Ch 2 Real Numbers
Ch 3 First-Degree Equations and Inequalities of One Variable
Ch 4 Formulas and Problem Solving
Ch 5 Exponents and Polynomials
Ch 6 Factoring and Solving Equations
Ch 7 Algebraic Fractions
Ch 8 Coordinate Geometry and Linear Systems
Ch 9 Roots and Radicals
Ch 10 Quadratic Equations

Note-taking

☐ Select colored pens or pencils to sketch a box around definitions and formulas
☐ Write a reminder note about a key-step within a problem (works well on homework too)
☐ You might want to keep a 2-inch margin on the right-hand side of your paper to make notes.
☐ See if you prefer writing on and studying from blank paper rather than lined paper.
Homework, Quizzes, and Attendance 10%
- No make-up quizzes will be provided. Missed quizzes will be scored as zero. You will not turn in homework for sections that you are quizzed on.
- Collected homework that is turned in one session late will be worth ¼ credit. After this the homework will not be accepted.
- Plan on studying and/or completing homework a minimum of ten hours outside of class each week.

Exams 70%
- Exams will be returned within one week.
- No make-up exams will be allowed and missed exams will be scored as zero. (See final exam info below.)
- If you are going to be absent on the day an exam is scheduled, discuss arrangements with me for taking the exam before the absence.
- Keep your eyes on your own papers. Do not talk during an exam. It is best not to sit near someone you studied with.

Final Exam 20%
- Throughout the semester review your returned exams to prepare for the final. The final will cover the entire semester.
- All Mathematics 115 students are required to pass a comprehensive department final. Failure to take this examination at the schedule time and day will result in a score of zero. This examination will be held in the Bungalows, Saturday, May 31, 2008 from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm. All students are required to be present 15 minutes prior to the examination. Students must present valid picture identification.

Study Tips
- Start homework as soon as possible. Rewrite the problem being asked. Place a star (*) next to problems you need help with.
- Read the book.
- Study every night for 1 – 2 hours in a quiet room at home or in the library.
- Review problems that were the most difficult and practice weak areas. (includes returned exams)

Sample grade calculation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HW &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>=</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>0.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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<td>Exam 4</td>
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<td>Exam 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grand total (Overall grade percentage in class):

Letter grades will be determined by your overall percentage in the course:

A = 90 - 100
B = 80 – 89.9
C = 70 – 79.9
D = 60 – 69.9
F = 0 – 59.9

The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to the syllabus, lecture schedule, and assignments.