

Math 97, 98 Beginning Algebra

Molly Crocker, instructor

Subject to change without notice, particularly the schedule of assignments. Come to class.

Presumptions: I want you to do well in this class. This level of mathematics opens doors for you, and I want those doors open. When you are able to take advantage of better opportunities then you are also more able to offer better opportunities to others. That eventually benefits ME.

Office: LDC 214 **Office Hours:** MW 3-4 PM, by appointment, or phone.

Home phone: 384-0984 CALL ME! You may call between the hours of 8 am and 9:30 pm. You are WELCOME to call me at home. If you get my home answering machine then hang up and please call my cell: **360-303-3464**. Leave voice mail on my cell phone if I cannot answer.

Email: m2d5@comcast.net I also have an email address at WCC, but I only check it on days when I am on campus. You will probably reach me sooner with the address above.

Website assistance: www.purplemath.com

Textbook: Elementary Algebra 7th edition; Angel; Prentice Hall. **Also required:** Supplemental pack available from the WCC bookstore for about \$3.

Math Supplies: A graphing calculator (TI-82, TI-83, or TI-84, any version) is **required** for this course. These may be checked out from the library for the entire quarter on a first-come-first-served basis at no charge to WCC students. They must be returned at the end of the quarter. Late returns will incur a replacement charge; if returned after that the replacement charge will be replaced with a service charge. A 6" ruler will be handy for graphing.

Assumptions:

Math 97: It is assumed that you know how to handle fractions, decimals, and percents in positive and negative values, that you can round an answer to a given decimal place, that you know some basic geometric formulas for perimeter, area, and volume.

Math 98 It is assumed you know how to solve a linear equation or inequality in one variable, work with graphs of linear equations in 2 variables, when given 2 points, find the slope and equation of the line through them; solve a linear system in 2 variables using any of three methods; solve problems involving ratios, mixtures, rate-time-distance, and liquid concentrations.

Homework: You will show your work when the problem requires it. All assignments are listed in the course schedule. They are due the NEXT class meeting. However, homework is not late until after the test over that chapter, when it will not be accepted. Attempt all problems assigned for homework. If you are stuck on a problem, call me! Homework is collected and recorded, and will add from 3% (at least half of all homework is turned in) to 5% (all homework turned in) extra credit points on your final grade.

SHOW WORK on your homework. On some of the Pizzazz pages there is enough space to work. On others, you should show work on the back or another sheet. Get in the habit of showing work clearly.

Assembling and turning in your homework:

- Please put your homework in a simple file folder with your name on it when you turn it in.
- Staples are not necessary. Labels are important.
- Start each book or Pizzazz assignment on a separate page, else I tend to miss recording it.
- Put work for Pizzazz pages with the page.

In Class Work There may be some in-class activities that will be graded as homework pages. You must be present to get credit.

Learning or physical disabilities: Please let me know how best to accommodate you. Since disabilities are highly individual we may need to be inventive. My bag of tricks is expanding!

Additional help can be found in the Math Center, Cascade 113. They have excellent assistance with student tutors, as well as some professional tutors. Check with them about how to sign up for free tutoring.

Entry and advising, LDC 116, also provides some very good Student Success Workshops on time management, study skills power learning tips, and test anxiety. Check with them for dates and times.

Form a study group. By far, this process produces the BEST results. We don't give much time in math classes to discuss work. For auditory learners, the practice of talking about what you know is CRUCIAL to your learning, and a study group is the best opportunity to do this. Students who meet regularly with a study group consistently get a B or better on tests.

Attendance: Attend class! Math is a foreign language, which often must be explained and translated. Not everything can be learned from a book by everyone. It helps to have a guide who speaks the language if you go to a foreign country. The student is rare who can truly do algebra on his/her own without a good guide.

Records of attendance are important to the college for several reasons. Although there will be several occasions when we may finish a little early, do not schedule other appointments during class time. It is distracting to other students when people come late and leave during a lecture. Please do not call me to inform me of your absence.

Exams: You are allowed one page (one side) of notes and your calculator (no TI 89 or 92) at each chapter exam. No calculator that is part of another device is allowed. Two pages (two sides) of notes and your calculator may be used for the final. Your notes must be YOUR own work. You may NOT photocopy or obtain a copy of someone else's notes. You may NOT photocopy from the book or any handouts. You may word-process your notes. The purpose of allowing notes is to encourage you to get all of your thinking in one place, get it organized, and decide which parts must be memorized.

Answer formats: Pay attention to directions and to the context of the problem.

SHOW YOUR WORK! I usually give partial credit for getting the problem written down or started correctly. Correct answers without work shown may not receive full credit, especially if the question asks you to show your knowledge of a particular method of solving.

Be present or **pre-arrange** to take a test in the testing center. Inform me of illness or your inability to attend any exam by phone, voice mail, or email **ON OR BEFORE THE DAY OF THE TEST!** Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero for that test!

You may use an mp3 player in class while taking a test, but the device must be on your desk with the display facing the desk. It must not be audible to your neighbor. No listening device is allowed for tests taken in the testing center.

Bring a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to the last day of the final exam if you would like your final returned to you.

Thinking/Language/Problem Solving Skills: Algebra is a foreign language. It is the language of all the math that is to follow. While for some people math is visual, others need verbal 'hooks' into the material. I try to give lots of cues with my board and overhead projector lectures, and en-

courage you to take these notes. In particular, defining and recognizing categories of problems and taking and following directions for solving those problems is a language skill. Word problems often involve translating English to mathematics, and solving these is proof of one's skill in transferring mathematics to other settings.

Grading: Is based on tests. Each test is awarded a percentage grade of points possible for that test.

Chapter tests: 70% of total grade

Final: 30% of total grade

Homework completed on time (by the chapter exams) may add from 3% (more than half turned in) to 5% extra credit.

A	93% and above	C	73 - 77	S: 73% or better
A-	90 - 92	C-	70 - 72	U: below 73%
B+	88 - 89	D+	68 - 69	N: Audit
B	83 - 87	D	63 - 67	
B-	80 - 82	D-	60 - 62	
C+	78 - 79	F	Below 60	

Since 'V' grades may not be changed in the future I do not award them.

Extra credit: Two ways to earn extra credit: 1) Your homework turned in, in a timely manner is your primary source for extra credit, as above. 2) I often offer extra credit problems on the test after having discussed them in class. Come to class to find out what these will be.

Consider taking the class S/U. This is available to most of you not on financial aid. It can relieve some stress and allow you to focus on what's important. You can change your registration to this option at no additional charge as late as the last day to withdraw from the class.

Don't make it difficult to do well. This is an intense experience. You can expect 1- 2 hours of homework for every class meeting. If you have any two of the following going on at the same time you are taking this class, then please consider carefully if you are too busy to do well in this class.

- Vacation where you will miss a week or more of class.
- Taking more than 17 credits.
- Primary caregiver for small children, an elderly parent, or disabled person.
- Working more than 20 hours per week.
- Relationship falling apart, requiring a move or legal action.
- Child out of control.
- Pregnancy, when due date is within three weeks of the end of the quarter.

If you find you must drop the class then please officially withdraw. Students who attend 3 days and disappear will get an F, whereas a "W" on a transcript does not affect your GPA. Dropping a class within a few weeks of the start of the quarter will not show on your transcript at all.

Talk to me about your grade the MINUTE you have any worries. I am happy to work with you around life's unforeseen challenges, as long as you keep me informed.