

MATH 121, College Algebra, Spring 2017
University of Mississippi
3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor Name: Michael Azlin
Office: Hume Hall, Room 218

CONTACT FORMATION:

If you have questions concerning the content of the course, you may contact me directly using the Email Your Instructor link on the Lessons page. NOTE: Whenever sending email, please be sure to indicate your course title and number in the subject line.

For administration issues, please contact Ole Miss Online.

The University of Mississippi, Department of Outreach and Continuing Education
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a 23-section web course in Algebra; the course is entirely online. Topics include linear, quadratic, higher-order, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic equations. Other topics consist of linear inequalities, rational inequalities, the algebra of functions (including polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions), the graphs of some of these functions, and systems of equations in two variables.

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:

Required Software + eBook Bundle: *College Algebra: A Concise Approach*, by Paul Sisson; **ISBN:** 9781941552773. Buy new from bookstore or [purchase here directly from Hawkes](#).

[Hawkes Learning Systems](#)

Instructor Name: Online Algebra (Note, although I personally am your instructor, the listing on Hawkes is **Online Algebra!**)

Section Name: Online Spring 2017

The ISBN above is for the required Software + eBook Bundle. The eBook (digital textbook) and software are good for life. **DO NOT** purchase a used License Number or Access Code (from other students or online vendors), as License Numbers and Access Codes are registered to the original purchaser only. You **should not** download and install anything; follow the instructions on Blackboard for enrolling in the Hawkes portion of the course. For those who may want a "physical" book, it is suggested that you use either: *College Algebra, 2nd Edition*, by Paul Sisson; ISBN: 9781932628272, or *College Algebra: A Concise Approach*, by Paul Sisson; ISBN: 9781935782025. Both of these are usually under \$10 on Amazon.

It is your responsibility to obtain the software and eBook for this course.

Use the ISBN in this syllabus to make sure you get the **exact** software bundle required in this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES – STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE MATH 121 WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Solve linear, rational, and radical equations in one variable.
- Solve quadratic and higher order polynomial equations using a variety of methods; graph these functions.
- Write the equation of a line in various forms, as well as find slope, intercepts, and graph linear equations.
- Evaluate, combine, compose, and find inverses of functions; determine the domain of a function.
- Divide polynomials using long division and synthetic division, and determine zeros of polynomial functions.
- Find equations of vertical, horizontal, and oblique asymptotes of a rational function.
- Solve linear, polynomial, and rational inequalities in one variable.
- Solve logarithmic and exponential equations; solve application problems with exponential functions.
- Set-up and solve systems of equations in two variables using the substitution and elimination methods.

GRADING:

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Percentage
A	90 and above
A–	88 – 89.9999
B+	86 – 87.9999
B	80 – 85.9999
B–	78 – 79.9999
C+	76 – 77.9999
C	70 – 75.9999
C–	68 – 69.9999
D	60 – 67.9999
F	0 – 59.9999

GRADING INFORMATION:

The grading format is as follows:

- Homework Average = 8%
- Quiz Average = 12%
- Tests 14% each (56% total), (Note: The lowest of the test grades will be replaced by the final exam percentage if and only if the final exam percentage is higher.)
- Final Exam = 24%
- Bonus Homework = 2% Bonus
- Practice Exam Average = 2% Bonus

Note: Grading calculations are done automatically in Hawkes.

You can do hypothetical grade simulations with the following formula:

$$\text{Course Average} = 0.08 * (\text{Homework Avg}) + 0.12 * (\text{Quiz Avg}) + 0.56 * (\text{Test Avg}) + 0.24 * (\text{Final Exam}) + 0.02 * (\text{Bonus HW Avg}) + 0.02 * (\text{Practice Exam Avg})$$

Remember, in the formula above, the lowest of the four grades will be replaced by the final exam grade--if the final exam grade is higher (thus the final has the potential to be worth 38% of your overall grade).

FAILURE TO TAKE THE FINAL EXAM WILL RESULT IN FAILURE OF THE COURSE

TESTING INFORMATION:

A student who wishes to receive credit for an online course must take all required exams under the supervision of an approved test site official (a proctor). Students in Oxford may use the JAC Lab testing facility, and students near Tupelo, Southaven, Grenada or Booneville may use the regional campus testing centers. If you are unable to test in Oxford or at one of the regional campus testing centers, then you may use the remote proctoring service [ProctorU](#) (you must pay for this service). Students will schedule via the appropriate "Test Scheduling" button on the left side of the page.

ATTENDANCE:

While there is no attendance in the traditional sense in this course, a new university policy dictated by federal guidelines requires me to notify the Registrar if you have not completed an assignment within one week of the beginning of the semester. If this happens, then it is very likely that you will be administratively dropped from the course! Please see the [Attendance Policy for Online Education](#) for further details.

CALCULATORS:

Only non-graphing calculators are allowed for the proctored testing in this course. It is suggested that you use a non-graphing calculator for all other work so that you are acclimated come test time. The suggested calculator for use is the TI-30XS Multi-View (this is the model provided at JAC Lab).

HOMEWORK:

- Homework is assigned for each section covered (23 total), and will count as 8% of your overall grade.
- Please see the course calendar for due dates.
- Homework may be done on any computer connected to the internet using Hawkes.
- Read through the "Learn" mode (or the eBook for a deeper presentation) of each section (watch the video and slide presentation!).
- Work through the "Practice" mode of each section (utilize the tutor tab when needed!).
- **You must attempt at least 60% of "Practice" before you can access "Certify."**
- When you have gone through "Learn" and "Practice," complete the assignment in the "Certify" mode.
- **In order to receive credit for homework you must complete "CERTIFY."**
- **Each assignment is an "all or nothing" proposition. You must answer approximately 85% of the questions in an assignment correctly in order to "Certify" and receive credit for that assignment.**
- You have four attempts at each question before it is considered a "Strike."
- **Accruing more strikes than allowed in the "Certify" mode will force you to restart the assignment from the beginning.**
- There are six assignments (1.1, 1.2, 1.3a, 1.4a, 1.4b, 1.5) that are "bonus" homework assignments. These sections cover topics that are not taught in this class, but they are topics that you should be very familiar and comfortable with. You are **strongly** encouraged to do these assignments. Completion of these

assignments can add up to 2% to your overall course grade, depending on how many you complete. To receive credit, these assignments must be completed by 2/13/17.

- You should keep a “homework” notebook of all problems worked.
- Late homework will incur a 10% per-day penalty for up to five (5) days. After five days, no credit will be awarded.
- Any non-submitted homework assignment will be given a grade of zero (0).

QUIZZES:

- Your quiz average will count as 12% of your overall grade.
- There are a total of eight (8) quizzes during the course.
- Quizzes may be done on any computer connected to the internet using Hawkes.
- Quizzes have a 60-minute time limit, but they are not proctored.
- You have two (2) attempts at each quiz, with only your best score recorded.
- Questions will be similar in format to the homework problems.
- Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.
- You may review quizzes as soon as they are submitted.
- **There are no make-ups for any reason!**

PRACTICE EXAMS:

A practice exam has been created for each of the tests and for the final exam. Like the homework, these practice tests are VERY useful and powerful tools. The practice tests are built from the quizzes. Each test and the final exam will be built directly from its respective practice test. It is suggested that you work EACH of them prior to the actual test. In addition to gaining essential practice, you will receive BONUS POINTS based on your practice test scores.

- There are a total of five (5) practice tests in the course.
- Practice exams are not proctored, and they are untimed (you should time yourself to get used to a clock—about 90 minutes should be the max (180 for the practice final)).
- Questions will be similar in format to the homework and quizzes.
- Practice tests may be done on any computer connected to the internet using Hawkes.
- You have an unlimited number of attempts for each practice test, with only your best score recorded.
- Your practice test average can add up to two (2) percentage points to your overall course grade.
- You may review practice exams as soon as they are submitted.

TESTS:

- There are four (4) tests during the semester.
- Each test is built from its respective practice test.
- The tests have a sixty (60) minute time limit on each test, and they are proctored.
- Tests will be taken on a computer using Hawkes at a proctoring site (or ProctorU)
- You must arrive at the correct answer to receive credit; partial credit will only be awarded in rare circumstances.
- Tests will be reviewed by Wednesday (usually sooner) of the following week for scoring errors and partial credit. It is possible that scores will go up, but never down.
- Each test will count as 14% (for a total of 56%) of your overall grade.
- The lowest of the four test grades will be replaced by the final exam grade if the final exam grade is higher.
- You will only be able to review tests after the deadline for submission (although you will get your score instantly).
- **There are no make-ups for any reason!**

FINAL EXAM:

- There is a comprehensive final exam in this course covering material from four tests.
- The final exam is built from the practice final (which is built from the four tests).
- There will be a two-hour (120 minute) time limit on the final exam, and it will be proctored.
- The final will be taken on a computer using Hawkes at a proctoring site (or ProctorU).
- You must arrive at the correct answer to receive credit; partial credit will only be awarded in rare circumstances.
- Final exam scores will be posted no later than 6:00 p.m. on Friday of exam week.
- The final exam will count as 24% of your overall grade (38% if higher than the lowest test grade).
- You will not get your score until I complete my review, and you will only be able to review by making an appointment.

FAILURE TO TAKE THE FINAL EXAM WILL RESULT IN FAILURE OF THE COURSE

ADA AND STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES:

The University of Mississippi is committed to ensuring equal access to an education for enrolled or admitted students who have disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The office serves those with physical, nonphysical, and mental disabilities. University policy calls for reasonable accommodations to be made for eligible students with verified disabilities on an individualized and flexible basis.

It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (662-915-7128) in 234 Martindale Center to be verified with that office. SDS will then contact the instructor through the student by means of an Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodations form. In addition, you must contact DETL if you receive testing accommodations. For more information, please visit the [SDS website](#).

M BOOK: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY / PLAGIARISM:

You should not share your private personal passwords (for your Blackboard account or for your email) with anyone else, including brothers or sisters, boyfriends or girlfriends, or parents. Logs of all your activity within the Blackboard course environment, including the Internet location from which you are accessing Blackboard, are available to the instructor. Any evidence of logins to a student's Blackboard course by someone other than the student will be treated as an act of academic dishonesty and will result, at minimum, with failure in the course; the student may also be subject to the more severe disciplinary actions outlined in [The University Policy on Academic Dishonesty](#) (ACA.AR.600.001).

Academic Dishonesty is expressly prohibited by The University of Mississippi; see the [University of Mississippi's M Book](#). This includes plagiarism and self-plagiarism. Plagiarism is not only prohibited by the university but it could also be a legal offense (ex: copyright, infringement, fraud, etc.).

- Self-plagiarism is defined as re-using a paper written for another class and submitting it in whole or part for credit in another class, without obtaining permission from the instructor prior to the submission of the paper.
- Plagiarism is harder to define, but it boils down to representing someone else's ideas as your own.

To be absolutely clear, working with another person or using a cell phone to answer submitted questions or any of the test questions is unacceptable. If it is determined that any student has violated this policy, the instructor will take the appropriate steps under The University of Mississippi's Academic Dishonesty policy. These range from failing the course to being suspended from The University of Mississippi.

If you have any questions about plagiarism please consult the web links below.

- The [Online Writing Lab](#) at Purdue has a great site on Plagiarism, including a checklist for students.
- Another good website is "[How Not to Plagiarize](#)" by Margaret Procter, Coordinator of Writing Support, University of Toronto.
- See "[Plagiarism in Colleges in USA](#)" by Ronald B. Standler for more information about potential legal issues.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE:

Set aside a regular time for studying. Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection under Title 17 of the United States Code. Under certain Fair Use circumstances specified by law, copies may be made for private study, scholarship, or research. Electronic copies should not be shared with unauthorized users. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. As an Ole Miss student, you must comply with the [IT Appropriate Use Policy](#). For Appropriate Use Policy questions, send an email to aup@olemiss.edu.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ONLINE STUDENTS:

- Set aside a regular time for studying and preparing your lessons.
- Submit the lessons on time, and do not fall behind.
- Review constantly. Do not merely submit new material and permit the old to stagnate.
- Note carefully the mistakes you made when reviewing your quizzes/practice exams/exams. If you have difficulty understanding the explanations given, never hesitate to ask for help.
- Do not hesitate to contact your instructor about any difficulties you may have or any phase of the work you may not understand.

You can contact your instructor in one of these ways:

1. Contact your instructor **directly** by using the Email Your Instructor link to send an email via Blackboard if your email is of a personal nature. You can usually expect a reply within 24 hours, except on weekends when it may take longer.
2. Use the discussion board on Blackboard (this is a great way for students to help each other!) if you have a math question.

Do not let unanswered questions keep you from getting the maximum out of each lesson.

A LAST WORD:

Algebra is not a spectator sport; it requires active participation and PRACTICE. You can “study,” you can “review,” and you can watch someone do examples; however, above all else, you must PRACTICE. There are no assignments in the course that are meant as "busy work." They have been created for each section of material, and are intended to prepare you for the quizzes and exams. They are VERY useful and powerful tools, as the quizzes, and exams will be built from these assignments.