MATH 121, College Algebra, Fall 2018
University of Mississippi
3 credit hours

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is a 20-module course in Algebra; coursework and testing are 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.

COURSE COMPETENCIES – STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE MATH 121 WILL BE ABLE TO:
- Simplify, add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational expressions, as well as simply complex rational expressions.
- Solve linear, absolute value, 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.
- Find equations of vertical, horizontal, and oblique asymptotes of a rational function; graph rational functions.
- Solve linear, absolute value, polynomial, and rational inequalities in one variable.
- Solve logarithmic and exponential equations.
- Set-up and solve systems of equations in two variables using the substitution and elimination methods.

OBJECTIVE MODULES
Algebra is not a spectator sport; it requires active participation and repetitive PRACTICE. You can “study,” you can “review,” and you can watch someone do examples; however, above all else, you must PRACTICE. The objective modules that have been created are intended to prepare you for tests. They are VERY useful and powerful tools, as the tests will be built from these assignments. It is suggested that you do ALL of them not just for the points that they contribute to your overall grade, but also to maximize your test scores!

- There are 20 homework (or objective) modules (five module in each test cycle) counting as 20% of your overall grade.
- Please see the course calendar for due dates. Deadline is 11:59pm.

PRACTICE TESTS
A practice test will be created for each of the tests as well as for the final exam. Like objective modules, these practice tests are VERY useful and powerful tools. Each test will be built directly from its respective practice test (practice tests are built directly from the objective modules). It is suggested that you work EACH of them prior to the actual test. In addition to gaining essential practice, you will receive EXTRA CREDIT based on your practice test scores.

- There will be a total of five (5) practice tests during the semester.
- Please see the course calendar for due dates/times.
• Practice tests are untimed (you should time yourself to get used to a clock—about 90 minutes should be the max).
• Questions will be similar in format to the topics in the objective modules.
• Practice tests can be completed at the location of your choice (Home, Library, Weir Hall, etc.).
• You have an unlimited number of attempts for each practice test, with only your best score recorded.
• Practice tests must be submitted by the posted deadlines to receive credit.
• Your practice test average can add up to a total of five (5) percentage points to your overall course grade.

UNIT TESTS
• There will be four (4) proctored unit tests during the semester.
• Tests will have a one-hour (60 minute) time limit.
• Please see the course calendar for modules covered and dates.
• Questions will be similar in format to the topics in the objective modules and the practice tests.
• You must arrive at the correct answer to receive credit; partial credit will only be awarded in rare circumstances.
• Each test will count as 14% (for a total of 56%) of your overall grade.
• If a test is missed for ANY reason, a grade of zero (0) will be given.
• THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP TESTS GIVEN FOR ANY REASON.
• Any student who must miss a scheduled test due to an official University function must reschedule and take the test at a time BEFORE the test is scheduled to be given (this includes the final exam). NO OTHER rescheduling will be allowed. Signed documentation on University letterhead is required.
• The lowest of the four test grades will be replaced with final exam grade at the end of the semester if and only if the final exam grade is higher.

FINAL EXAM
• There will be a proctored comprehensive final exam in this course.
• The practice final will be built from the four tests, and the final will be built from the practice final.
• There will be a two-hour (120 minute) time limit on the final exam.
• You must arrive at the correct answer to receive credit; partial credit will only be awarded in rare circumstances.
• The final exam will count as 24% of your overall grade (38% if higher than the lowest test grade).

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 Blackboard page.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
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).
**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

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*. 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.

**Possession of a cell phone in the JAC Lab during testing is considered cheating.**

The following statement is the policy of the Department of Mathematics regarding cheating:

**Offenses:** Cheating on any exam or quiz, theft or attempted theft of exam questions, possession of exam questions prior to the time for examination, the possession of a cell phone, or the use of a personal calculator on tests shall all be offenses subject to appropriate penalties. Furthermore, the presence of any mathematics (review tests, etc.) during tests shall be subject to the appropriate penalty.

**Penalties:** The penalty for commission of any offense set out above is a zero (0) on the exam in question, and a recommendation of failure in the course to the Academic Discipline Committee. Furthermore, if you are found guilty of cheating, then the penalty could also include, subject to the approval of the Chancellor, dismissal or suspension from the University. Please note that any grade of zero (0) given for cheating will not be replaced if the Academic Discipline Committee does not follow the recommendation of course failure.

**COPYRIGHT NOTICE**

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.

**WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE**

Monday, October 1st is the course withdrawal deadline. After the Course Withdrawal Deadline, courses dropped will be recorded on University records, and the W grade will be recorded if the student is not failing the course at the time of withdrawal; otherwise the grade recorded will be an F. After the course withdrawal deadline, a student may drop a course only in cases of extreme and unavoidable emergency as determined by the academic dean; dropping a course after the deadline will not be permitted because of dissatisfaction over an expected grade or because the student is changing his or her major.

**DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION**

The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation, or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. Barriers may include, but are not necessarily limited to, timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content, and the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files. If you are approved through SDS, you must log in to your Rebel Access portal at https://sds.olemiss.edu to request approved...
accommodations. If you are NOT approved through SDS, you must contact Student Disability Services at 662-915-7128 so the office can: 1. determine your eligibility for accommodations, 2. disseminate to your instructors a Faculty Notification Letter, 3. facilitate the removal of barriers, and 4. ensure you have equal access to the same opportunities for success that are available to all students.

OTHER NOTES
• If a student wishes to discuss the grading policy, the testing policy, or wishes to have any conversation regarding the instructor of the course, please make an appointment with the course supervisor in the Department of Mathematics.
• An "I" grade will not be given without the permission of the Department of Mathematics.

A LAST WORD
• 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 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.

OVERALL GRADE
The following scale will be used to determine your overall grade (a perfect score in this course is 105 with max bonus):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>88 – 89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86 – 87.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 85.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>78 – 79.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76 – 77.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 75.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C−</td>
<td>68 – 69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 67.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Where Test Avg. = (Add the 4 highest of the Tests and Final Exam) ÷ 4

Percentage = 0.56*(Test Avg.) + 0.20*(Objectives) + 0.24*(F. Exam) +0.05*(Practice Test Avg.)

Please note that there will not be a curve, nor will there be any “grade bumps” in this course!