# Math 121 – College Algebra Syllabus
## Online Spring 2020
## 3 Credit Hours

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**COURSEWARE (REQUIRED):** College Algebra: A Concise Approach, Hawkes; ISBN: 9781941552773

The ISBN above is for the <u>required</u> Courseware + eBook Bundle. The eBook (digital textbook) and courseware are good for life. Purchase new from the bookstore or directly from *Hawkes* (see instructions on Blackboard). **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; <u>follow the instructions on Blackboard</u> 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.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a 22-section course in Algebra; coursework and testing are entirely online. Topics include linear, quadratic, higher-order, rational, radical, absolute value, exponential, and logarithmic equations. Other topics consist of linear inequalities, rational inequalities, absolute value 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 OBJECTIVES – 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, rational, radical, and absolute value 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 and graph.
- Solve linear, polynomial, rational, and absolute value 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.

**HOMEWORK**

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 homework assignments that have been created for each section of material are intended to prepare you for the unit tests. They are **VERY** useful and powerful tools, as the unit 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!

- Homework is assigned for each section covered (22 total), and will count as 10% of your overall grade.
- Please see the course calendar/Hawkes for due dates.
- Assignments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the due date to receive credit.
- Late homework incurs a 10% <u>per-day</u> penalty, up to 5 days.
- Read through the "Learn" mode (or the eBook for a deeper presentation) of each section (watch the videos!).
- Work through the "Practice" mode of each section (utilize the tutor tab when needed!).
- When you have gone through "Learn" and "Practice," complete the assignment in the "Certify" mode.
- You should keep a "homework" notebook of all problems worked for your review and for potential questions.
- **In order to receive credit for homework, you must complete "<u>CERTIFY</u>."**

- Each "Certify" assignment contains the same question set as the respective "Practice," but the order is random.
- Homework assignments will be done in web-based Hawkes. Homework can be completed at any location of your choice (Home, Library, Weir Hall, etc.).
- **Each assignment is an "all or nothing" proposition. You must answer approximately 80% of the questions in an assignment correctly in order to "Certify" and receive credit for that assignment.**
- You have three attempts at each question before it is considered a "Strike."
- The lowest two homework scores will be dropped.
- There are six assignments (1.1, 1.2, 1.3a, 1,4a, 1.4b, 1.5) that are "bonus" homework assignments. These sections cover pre-algebra skills that are not taught in this class, but they are skills that you should be very familiar and comfortable with. You are **strongly** encouraged to do these assignments (especially the factoring)! Completion of these assignments can add up to 2% to your overall course grade.

## QUIZZES

- **You must complete the "Testing Location??" test in Hawkes (from any computer) before you will have access to any quiz, practice test, or test**. This will let me know where you intend to test this semester.
- There will be a total of nine (9) quizzes during the semester (two per test cycle—plus one cumulative review quiz).
- Quizzes have a seventy-five (75) minute time limit.
- You will be allowed three (3) attempts per quiz; only your best score is recorded.
- You have the ability to review completed attempts before attempting again.
- Questions will be similar in format to the homework problems.
- You must arrive at the correct answer to receive credit; partial credit will only be awarded in rare circumstances (**and only if you use all three attempts**).
- Please see the course calendar/Hawkes for due dates.
- Quizzes are due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.
- Your quiz average will count as 10% of your overall grade.
- If a quiz is missed for **ANY** reason, a grade of zero (0) will be given.
- **THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES GIVEN FOR ANY REASON.**
- The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

## PRACTICE TESTS

A practice test will be created for each of the unit tests as well as for the final exam. Like the homework, these practice tests are **VERY** useful and powerful tools. Each unit test will be built **directly** from its respective practice test (practice tests are built **directly** from the quizzes). 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.

- **You must complete the "Testing Location??" test in Hawkes (from any computer) before you will have access to any quiz, practice test, or test**. This will let me know where you intend to test this semester.
- There will be a total of five (5) practice tests during the semester.
- Please see the course calendar/Hawkes for due dates.
- 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 homework and quizzes.
- Practice tests will be taken in web-based Hawkes.
- 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 two (2) percentage points to your overall course grade.

**TESTS**

- **You must complete the "Testing Location??" test in Hawkes (from any computer) before you will have access to any quiz, practice test, or test**. This will let me know where you intend to test this semester.
- There will be four (4) unit tests during the semester.
- Each test is built from its respective practice test.
- Tests will have a one-hour (60 minute) time limit, and they will be proctored.
- Please see the course calendar for sections covered and dates.
- **Tests will be taken in web-based Hawkes in the Jackson Avenue Center Mathematics Lab**, **a regional campus testing center, or with ProctorU (fee required)**.
- 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 comprehensive final exam in this course.
- The practice final will be built from the four unit 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, and it will be proctored.
- **The final will be taken in web-based Hawkes in the Jackson Avenue Center Mathematics Lab**, **a regional campus testing center, or with ProctorU (fee required)**.
- 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 unit test 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 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 model will be provided at the campus testing centers).

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Dishonesty is expressly prohibited by The University of Mississippi; see the *University of Mississippi's M Book*, and disciplinary actions are outlined in *The University Policy on Academic Dishonesty* (ACA.AR.600.001).

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.*

## WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

Monday, March 2nd 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. For more information, please visit the *SDS website*.

## 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

- 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.
- Keep up! You will need to be comfortable with the material from the beginning of the course to be successful in the end.
- Review constantly. Do not merely submit new material and permit the old to stagnate.
- Make use of all of the resources provided within Hawkes and on Blackboard.
- Note carefully the mistakes you made when reviewing your quizzes/practice tests/tests. If you have difficulty understanding the explanations given, never hesitate to ask for help.

- You can stop by anytime during my office hours or email me to set up an appointment at another time. Help will be much more effective if you know what it is that you don't understand, and if you bring your attempts at specific questions you worked in Hawkes!
- When communicating via email, please include your course and the days/time your class meets.
- All emails will be answered within one (1) business day. I reply to emails at various times throughout the day, but I generally do not reply after 5:00 p.m. (nor on weekends).

## TUTORING

Mathematics tutoring (FREE!) will occur in the J.D. Williams Library Commons. The Commons is on the bottom floor of the J.D. Williams Library. No appointment is necessary. A deskworker is stationed near the reference desk and can point you in the direction of a tutor. Tutoring hours are listed below, along with a map of the 1st floor of the Library.

**Monday-Thursday 10am – 7pm & Friday 10am – 2pm**
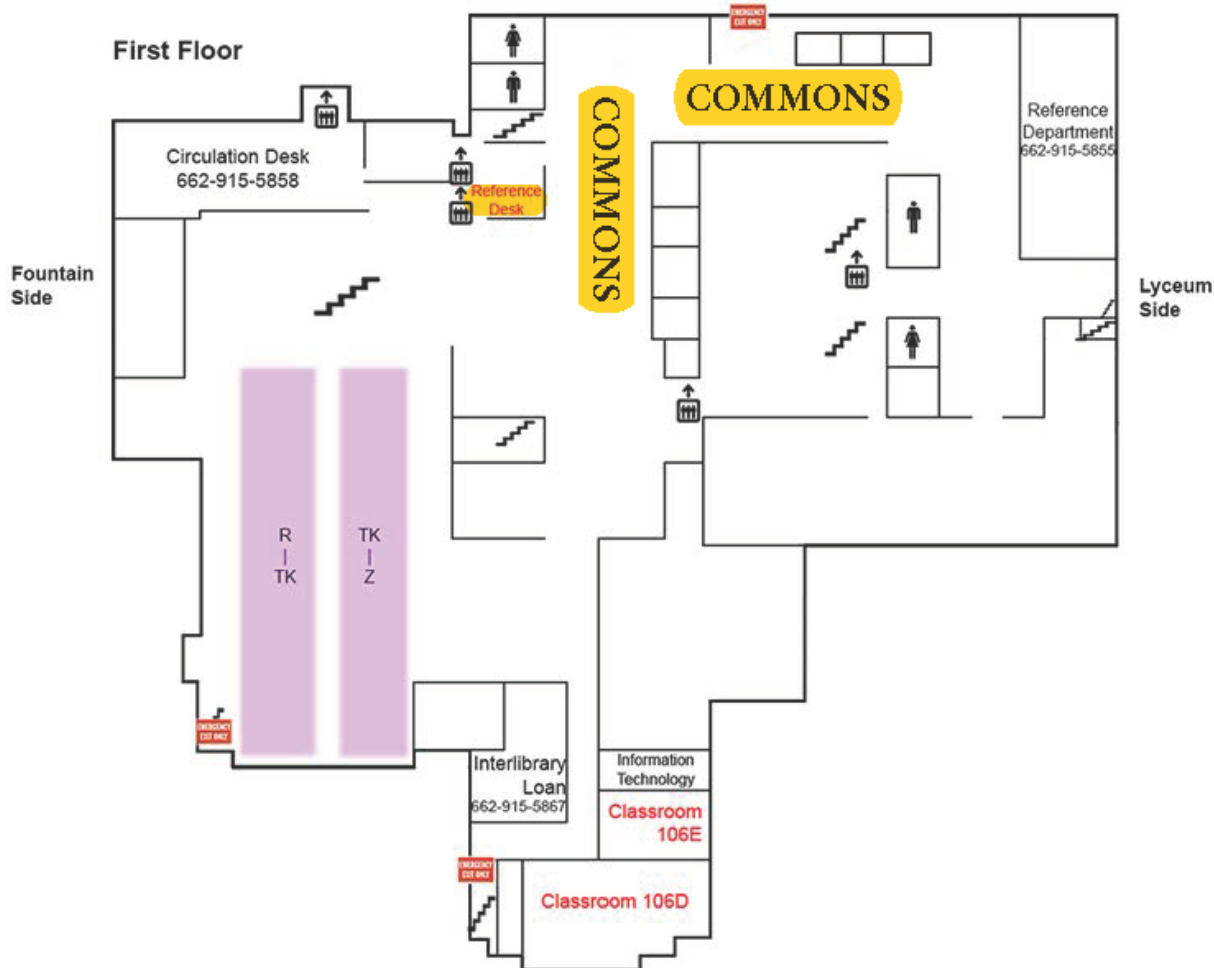
## OVERALL GRADE

The following scale will be used to determine your overall grade (a perfect score in this course is 104 with max bonus):

| Grade | Percentage |
|-------|------------|
| A | 90 – 100 |
| A− | 88 – 89.999 |
| B+ | 86 – 87.999 |
| B | 80 – 85.999 |
| B− | 78 – 79.999 |
| C+ | 76 – 77.999 |
| C | 70 – 75.999 |
| C- | 68 – 69.999 |
| D | 60 – 67.999 |
| F | Below 60 |

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

Percentage = 0.56*(Test Avg.)  + 0.1*(Quiz Avg.) + 0.24*(Final Exam) + 0.1*(HW Avg.) + 0.02*(Bonus HW Avg.) +0.02*(Practice Test Avg.)

Remember, in the formula above, the lowest of the four test grades will be replaced by the final exam grade--if the final exam grade is higher.

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

## COPYRIGHT NOTICE