Math 98 Syllabus
Fall 2009

Instructor: Les Uhrich
Office: Room C208A, 253-964-6775
email: luhrich@pierce.ctc.edu

Office Hours:
M-Th 12-1 PM & F 11-12 Rm C208a
Others by Appt.

Required Text:
* Elementary & Intermediate Algebra by Tussy & Gustafson 4th Ed

Required Supplies:
* 8 1/2 x 11"paper (I prefer that you use unlined paper - but it is not required)
* Mechanical pencil (.5mm - .7mm) (otherwise, please keep your pencils sharp!
* White eraser (not pink pearl - it smudges too much)
* Straight edge and circle template (or compass)
* Simple scientific calculator (a cheap one will do)
* About 10 to 20 sheets of Graph paper (for some of the assignments)
* Five (5) Scantron Mini Essay Books (form 886-E) (for the exams) ask at Bookstore checkout counter

CLASS SCHEDULE: M-F 10 - 10:50 PM Room C221
Class activities will focus on presentation of topics and problem solving with discussion

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Your contribution in the form of classroom participation in the discussion phase is important to the class. Contributions by other students during this time are also important to you. For this reason, a student missing more than 5 class sessions for any reason will fail the course. Please try your best to make it to class on time so that you do not disrupt the class.

Hand in your homework and other assigned material at the beginning of the period on the due date even if I don’t ask for it. Please staple pages together. Late assignments will not be accepted. In case of absence, it will be your responsibility to find out what was assigned, handed out, or otherwise announced and keep yourself up-to-date.

MUTUAL COMMITMENT CONTRACT
Suffering is optional in this class. If you are too warm, are too cold, have trouble hearing or seeing, or have trouble understanding what is being or has been covered, let me know. If you have any special needs or requirements let me know. If you have any physical or mental challenges that might affect your performance in this class let me know. You can either let me know in class or see me privately.

I am committed to approaching you and this course in a manner that is respectful, fair, caring, and understanding. My primary concern is to do what I can to do better prepare you for your next math class. You are asked to make a commitment to those same qualities in you approach to this course, to other students, and to myself during the quarter.

You must be prepared to spend at least 10 hours each week on homework. Form study groups early; they are very helpful for many people. Tutorial help is available in the Tutoring Center. You are invited to see me for individual or group help outside class during office hours or by making an appointment to see me.
COURSE GRADING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework, (and/or quizzes)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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EXAMS
* Tests cannot be made up.

HOMEWORK
* Neither homework nor unscheduled quizzes can be made up. Please do not ask to turn in late homework or other assignments for any reason.
* Assignments are due at beginning of class on due date.
* Missed assignments can be made up for by doing extra credit assignments (there are several opportunities for this). Please note that extra credit on homework can only be used to a maximum of 100% of total possible points. However, I am sure that you can understand the value of having an insurance policy of extra points built up for those unfortunate things that seem to happen!
* All Homework must have a completed required coversheet stapled on top of each assignment. It must be done on 8 ½ by 11 in. (letter-sized) paper.
* If you anticipate an absence: * Hand in the assignment early or give it to a responsible friend to hand in for you.
* If you wake up too sick or too late to make to class. * Go ahead and sleep in! Just make sure that you have or will have extra credit assignments turned in to compensate for this.

RULES FOR DROPPING
* During the first 10 days of classes you may drop without my signature. After this period, a justifiable reason for dropping will be required, especially if the class was closed to enrollment prior to the first day of class (Note that this class has been filled!). Pierce College requires that a student have a passing grade to be dropped. Remember that the state pays for most of the cost of your attendance. Students who sign up for classes only to drop during midterm are preventing other students from attending.

HONESTY (If you consider yourself to be honest, please skip this section)
* Plagiarizing (including copying solutions or answers from another source without proper acknowledgment) will be treated as grounds for dismissal from class as well as a failing grade.
* Persons caught cheating on exams may be expelled from the class as well as the college, and receive a failing grade.
CLASS PARTICIPATION
* As a student enrolled for the class, you will be asked to occasionally contribute to the learning process by participating in classroom discussions and/or help by coming to the board to work out a problem. Please do not fear this. I will try diligently to help you feel at ease.
* Please do not speak out in class until you are "given the floor". I will recognize you by your raised hand and give you the floor. This is necessary to avoid confusion and to give each speaker the right to be heard.

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WORKING TOGETHER
I encourage you to talk to other students in class about math. Feel free to work in groups to discuss solutions to the homework. Avoid "BS" sessions; they are a waste of good study time (even though they are fun). Limit groups to two or three. If you work in groups go off by yourself to complete the final form of your solutions. Do not rob yourself of the needed practice for the exams. Choose several problems you think could be candidates for the exam and do as quickly as possible, timing yourself. This will give you experience under "game conditions" The review problems at the end of the chapters are excellent for this.

You may or may not already know a lot about math. Regardless, to succeed in a new course, you must learn new concepts, new terminology, new symbols, and new meanings for familiar words. You must pay meticulous attention to steps, procedures, and have to read differently than you may be used to, as the language of mathematics is precise, concise, and dense with symbols, formulas, equations and graphs.

Be confident. This means TRUST yourself. Don’t waste energy worrying about difficulties. Many failures are the result of a disorganized and emotional approach: a generalized anxiety about math -- not the inability to do the work. Take one concept at a time, one step at a time and the process will unfold. This will help you to banish the damaging attitude, "I can’t do math."
(Please fill out profile and return form to instructor now)

STUDENT PROFILE

Class Title & Number (Math98, PS101, etc) Math 98

Name ___________________________________ SID# __________________________________

Address __________________________________ City __________________________ Zip ______

Phone Number(s)  Home: ____________________ Work (or Msg#) __________________

Email Address (if any) ________________________________________________________

Highest Math Level Achieved __________________________ Grade __________________

Education/Occupation Plans __________________________________________________

Job now working (if any) __________________________ Where ______________________

Classes This Quarter (List each) ______________________________________________

Example

Number of hours worked each week _______ (20)

No. Credits now taking, multiplied by three _______ (45) (3 x 15)

Total _______ 65

Grade you are going to shoot for _____

Circle the best choice:

I Like problem solving: (1 = No!, 10 = a lot!) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

My ability to study many hours (1=poor 10=great) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

My Level of Self-Motivation (1=poor 10=great) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Interests: (hiking, computers, movies, reading, etc.)

I understand that late assignments will not be accepted (initial) __________

I understand that missed exams cannot be made up (initial) __________

I have read, understand, and agree to the mutual commitment contract (initial) __________

Comments: 