Precalculus I

Precalculus I is the first in a series of two courses designed to provide an in-depth study of functions to prepare students for advanced mathematics courses. Graphical analysis of concepts is emphasized through the use of technology. Topics include working with algebraic expressions, solving equations algebraically and graphically, and a detailed analysis of the algebraic and graphical properties of various functions.

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Office Hours: 8:30-9:20 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in 15B and 12:30-1:20 Tuesday in 15B and Thursday in the TLC. In addition to my scheduled office hour, you may stop by at any time or make an appointment to meet with me. You may also contact me by email or phone. You are responsible for all course material; if you do not understand a concept or problem please don’t hesitate to ask a classmate, a tutor, or me.

Text: Precalculus by Schulz, Briggs, and Cochran. This text is interactive and electronic; MyMathLab access is required to use the book and to complete the assignments. You may choose to purchase only the access code and print the Explorations & Notes yourself or you may choose to purchase the printed Explorations & Notes bundled with the access code. There is also a printed version of the book available for purchase. This book is used for MATH& 141 and MATH& 142 and the access code is valid for the life of the book. This course requires that you actively work through each section of the book that we cover—your success depends on you taking responsibility for your learning and working toward true understanding.

Technology: In addition to MyMathLab, access to graphing technology is required. The mathematical software Mathematica is installed on the computers in our classroom and WWCC has a site license that allows students with a valid WWCC email address free use of Mathematica on a personal computer. You will not need access to graphing technology during exams; in fact, only a non-graphing scientific calculator will be allowed for testing. Non-precalculus computer activity as well as cell phone use are prohibited during class.

Email: Use your WWCC student email account to communicate with me electronically. This prevents your email from landing in my junk mail and I can easily identify the sender. Communicating within our own system provides confidentiality and a method for me to efficiently email the entire class. To activate your student email account, go to the WWCC Homepage and select Student Email at the top of the page.

Attendance: Daily, punctual attendance with proper preparation is essential for success in this course. If you should miss a class, you are responsible for all announcements made concerning the course, for the material discussed in class, and for all assigned tasks. Cell phone use (this includes text messaging) is not allowed during class. If you use your phone during class, you will be asked to leave for the remaining portion of class—you will not be allowed to make up any missed points.
**Homework:** Homework consists of three parts: Explorations and Notes (printed from the book), Practice (in MyMathLab), and Skills Check (on graph paper). Explorations & Notes guide you through each section of the book and are due at the beginning of class the day the corresponding Practice is due. The Practice exercises are found on the Homework tab in MyMathLab and help options are available as you work through the problems. The Skills Check exercises are selected from the textbook and must be submitted on graph paper in the required format (see HW Sample on the Course Documents tab in MyMathLab). *If your written work is not completed on graph paper and formatted as specified online, it will not be accepted.* Explorations and Notes will be worth 50 points, Practices 50 points, and Skills Checks 50 points of your final grade. *No late homework is accepted;* however, I will drop your lowest homework score in each category at the end of the quarter. Plan to spend a solid two hours every day reading, studying, and working through problems. I encourage you to work in groups and to obtain help from the Tutoring and Learning Center in Room 244. Keep in mind, in the end, YOU must understand the course material and be able to solve problems independently.

**Notebooks:** I strongly recommend you keep a three-ring binder with all of your course materials. The content in your notebook should be neat and organized and should include: 1) completed Explorations & Notes, 2) worked out solutions to Practice and Skills Check exercises, 3) all quizzes, 4) exams and corrections, and 5) class notes and handouts.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes, announced and unannounced, will be worth 100 points of your final grade. *No late quizzes will be given;* however, your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

**Exams:** There are three exams prior to the final, each worth 100 points. You must show all work on exams, including explanation in words where appropriate. If you must miss an exam for a WWCC-related function, contact me at least one week in advance to make proper arrangements. In the extremely rare case that you should miss an exam for other reasons, unless physically impossible, *you must contact me before the exam to request approval to take the exam at another time.* Cell phones, headphones, graphing calculators, and sharing calculators are prohibited.

**Final Exam:** The final exam is comprehensive and is worth 200 points. The final exam will be given Thursday, March 19, 1:30-3:30. Taking the final exam on a day other than that scheduled must be arranged in writing through the Vice President of Instruction.

**Evaluation:** Your grade will be calculated by dividing the points you have earned by the points possible. Your grade will be determined from the following scale: A: 93-100, A-: 90-93, B+: 87-90, B: 83-87, B-: 80-83, C+: 77-80, C: 70-77, D+: 67-70, D: 60-67, F: 0-60.

**Notes:** To request accommodations related to a disability, contact Claudia Angus, Ph.D., Coordinator of Disability Support Services, at 527-4262 or email claudia.angus@wwcc.edu.

Academic dishonesty (cheating) is not tolerated and will result in a 0 grade. Do not hesitate to ask questions in class or in my office. It is essential that you consistently put forth the effort and the put in the practice necessary to succeed, beginning today. You learn math by doing math!