Math 142, Precalculus, Spring 2015

Welcome to Precalculus! You have spent years mastering arithmetic, algebra, and geometry to reach this point. Precalculus is an in-depth study of functions and their graphs. Functions and graphical analysis are always be on center stage in the two-course series. You will learn about different families of functions: linear, quadratic, cubic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, algebraic, and transcendental functions. Successful completion of the two-course precalculus series ensures you are ready to study calculus and apply precalculus concepts in other subjects and areas of your life.

See Math 142, Precalculus II, WWCC Master Course Outline at wwcc.edu for course content.

Instructor

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office hours: 8:30-9:20 daily, and by appointment

Materials

Precalculus, by Schulz, Briggs, Cochran, Sachs, published by Pearson Education. The interactive text is published in MyMathLab.com. A print reference for the etext is available to purchase (optional, ≈$30). Math 141 and 142 use the same text. The etext uses CDF technology and is accessible from Windows, OS X, and Linux computers. Directions for downloading and installing the Wolfram CDF Player software are given in MyMathLab.

Explorations & Notes  Print supplement for interactive figure explorations and taking notes.

You may choose to purchase only a MyMathLab access code and print the Explorations & Notes yourself, or purchase the printed Explorations & Notes and Precalculus Print Reference bundled with a MyMathLab access code. The MML access code is valid for the life of the etext. Access to MyMathLab is configured in WWCC’s Canvas resource.

Success in the course requires you actively use the etext by reading, taking notes, and exploring the interactive figures. Your success in mastering precalculus concepts depends on your actions and engagement with the material.

Graphing device  A graphing device is required and will be used extensively; a graphing device can be a graphing calculator, a smartphone/tablet app, computer software, or a website. Software: Mathematica is available for no charge to WWCC students. Website: www.desmos.com is an excellent graphing site. The website works well on computers and tablets; there is a standalone Desmos app available for iOS devices.

Scientific calculator  Graphing devices are not allowed on exams.

Attendance

Attendance at every class session is expected. I understand absences are sometimes unavoidable and will work with students when such occasions arise. In the event of an absence occurring on the date of a scheduled exam, prior arrangements must be made in order to schedule an alternate time to take the exam. Don’t miss an exam or quiz without contacting me beforehand and then ask when you can take it up. You won’t like the answer.

Computers, cellphones, and tablets

Your behavior in class must be respectful of others around you. Using with your device in class for talking, texting, tweeting, facebooking, gaming, and so forth is a disruption to those around you and me.
Please silence your device when entering the classroom and do not use it for these reasons. You are welcome to use your device as a mathematical and educational tool. If you use your device during class for reasons not related to course material, then you decide whether to give me your device or leave with the device for the remainder of class.

Explorations & Notes

Explorations & Notes (E&N) guide you through each section of the book. You are required to complete the designated Explorations & Notes by the date indicated; no late E&N’s will be accepted. E&N’s are worth 4 points per section.

Homework

Homework assignments for each section are a combination of activities completed using the etext (Explorations & Notes), exercises completed online in MyMathLab, and exercises completed on paper from the text.

There are three graded homework activities for each section in the course:
1. Explorations & Notes (4 pts)
2. MyMathLab Assignment (MML, 4 pts)
3. Written Assignment (4 pts)

Quizzes

Paper and pencil quizzes may be given in class. Not all quizzes will be announced before being given.

Exams

There will be four one-hour exams worth 100 points each, and one two-hour comprehensive final exam worth 150 points given at the time scheduled by the college. Detailed work must be shown on all exams for credit to be given (exam questions are not multiple choice). Cell phones, graphing calculators, and headphones are not allowed during exams; each student must have their own scientific calculator for exams. If you are unable to make a scheduled exam, you must contact me before the exam to make alternate arrangements; that is, if you miss an exam and fail to contact me before the scheduled exam time, then you will receive a score of 0 on the exam.

Grade

The course grade is determined by dividing the points earned on all assessments in the course by the points possible in the course:

- 93% to 100% : A
- 87% to 89.9% : B+
- 77% to 79.9% : C+
- 67% to 69.9% : D+
- 90% to 92.9% : A−
- 83% to 86.9% : B
- 70% to 76.9% : C
- 60% to 66.9% : D
- 80% to 82.9% : B−
- 0% to 59.9% : F

Math 142 covers 19 sections in Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the text. There will be approximately 848 points to be earned in the course:

- section assignments 228 = 18 (4 + 4 + 4)
- quizzes 70 = 10 · 7 (approx.)
- one-hour exams 400 = 4 · 100
- comprehensive final exam 150

Total 848

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.