

## Precalculus I

Precalculus I is the first in a series of two courses designed to provide an in-depth study of algebra to prepare students for advanced mathematics courses. Graphical analysis of concepts is emphasized through the use of graphing calculators. Topics for the course 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:** Monday through Friday 10:30-11:20 a.m. In addition to my scheduled office hour, you may stop by at any time. You may also make an appointment to meet with me. You are responsible for all course material. If you do not understand a concept or problem after reading the book, please ask a classmate, a tutor, or me.

**Text:** *Precalculus: A Concise Course*, by Larson & Hostetler. Students are expected to read and study the sections of the book that we cover.

**Calculator:** A graphing calculator is required for the course. All in-class instruction will be done on the TI-89. If you do not have nor wish to purchase a graphing calculator, you may rent one through the Math Department.

**Mathematica:** Our classroom is equipped with computers installed with *Mathematica*. We will use this mathematical software during class. The software is also available in the Math Lab and we have a site license that allows students the use of *Mathematica* on a personal computer. You may check out an installation disk in the Math Lab.

**Graph Paper:** Graph paper is required and available at the bookstore.

**Attendance:** Daily and punctual attendance is expected. If you should miss a class, you are responsible for all announcements made concerning the course, for the material discussed in class, and for the homework assignment due the following day. The homework assigned will be posted on my website. Cell phone use (this includes text messaging) is not allowed during class. If you are using your cell phone during class, I will ask you to leave for the remaining portion of class.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned and collected regularly. Each assignment will be worth five points, based on neatness and completion. You must show all work, including explanation in words where appropriate. Late homework will be accepted for full credit only in the case of absence due to a school event. Otherwise, late homework will be accepted one day after the due date and it will be worth a possible three points. You may, however, turn in an assignment early for full credit. Your lowest three homework scores will be dropped at the end of the quarter. Homework will be worth 100 points of your final grade. 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 Math Lab in Room 288, remembering that it is essential to understand the course material and be able to solve the problems independently.

**Miscellaneous:** Quizzes and other assignments will comprise 50 points of your final grade. These may be given during class or as outside assignments.

**Exams:** There will be four mid-term exams. Each exam is worth 100 points. If you must miss an exam for a WWCC-related function, please contact me at least one week in advance in order 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 in order to make arrangements to take the exam at another time. It is your responsibility to bring a graphing calculator for exam use. Please note that cell phones, headphones, computers, and sharing calculators are prohibited during exams.

**Final Exam:** The final exam is comprehensive and is worth 150 points. The final exam will be given Thursday, December 11. Taking the final exam on a day other than that scheduled must be arranged in writing through the Vice President of Instruction's office.

**Evaluation:** There are 700 points possible: exams (400 points), homework (100 points), miscellaneous/quizzes (50 points), and the final exam (150 points). Your grade will be determined from the following scale where  $x$  is the % of possible points you earned.

A	$x \geq 93$	B-	$80 \leq x < 83$	D+	$67 \leq x < 70$
A-	$90 \leq x < 93$	C+	$77 \leq x < 80$	D	$60 \leq x < 67$
B+	$87 \leq x < 90$	C	$73 \leq x < 77$	F	$x < 60$
B	$83 \leq x < 87$	C-	$70 \leq x < 73$		

If, at the end of the quarter, your percent earned is very close to a grade minimum, it is possible that your grade will be rounded up. For example, a 92.9% could be rounded up to an A. Your grade will not be rounded down.

**Notes:** Academic dishonesty (cheating) is not tolerated and will result in a 0 grade. A student with a documented disability may request accommodations by contacting Claudia Angus, Coordinator of Disability Support Services, at 527-4262 or by email at [claudia.angus@wwcc.edu](mailto:claudia.angus@wwcc.edu). Do not hesitate to ask questions in class or in my office. It is essential that you consistently put forth the effort necessary to succeed, beginning today.