MA 090 Beginning Algebra
Fall 2013 WS 2901
MW 5:30 – 7:40 PM (Section 01)

Professor: Dr. Linda Lawton
Office: NSF 1107
Email: llawton@nmu.edu
Office Hours: 4:05 – 5:20 MW & 11:15 – 12:45 R, or by appointment

Text: Beginning Algebra: Once and For All by Jane Jamsen and Gwen Hetler,

Course description: We will cover chapters 1 - 6 of the text. Please see learning objectives below.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory (B- or better) completion of OC 080 or satisfactory score on the Math Placement Exam.

Exams: There will be five exams spaced roughly 3 weeks apart. Just a word of warning—make-up exams tend to be more difficult than the original. (Once a test has been given, its content tends to become widely known very rapidly—not to mention I may have already used my best (read nice) problems.)

Breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>91 – 100% = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>81 – 89% = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>71 – 79% = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>61 – 69% = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(comprehensive)</td>
<td>&lt; 60% = F</td>
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Learning Outcomes (partial list)
- Solve equations in one variable formally using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as appropriate.
- Employ the use of a variable in problem solving.
- Apply the Pythagorean Theorem in problem solving.
- Calculate and compare the measures of clustering (mean, median, mode) of data points.

Homework: Posted daily (M – F) on EduCat. Printed copies will be available outside my office door. You need to obtain a printed copy and submit homework at the beginning of the next class period.
**About me:**

Normally I am a rather informal, laid back person—i.e. easy to deal with. (Even my husband agrees with this.) But there are a few things which tend to make me grumpy—i.e. difficult to deal with. Here’s a short list (keep in mind this was developed while teaching “Math for People Who Hate Math But Have to Have One to Graduate”):

1. bad attitudes
   (Please don’t just sit in the back glaring at me—pretend you are enjoying yourself!!)

2. homework (or other) questions right before class starts
   (I want to provide you with clear, understandable lectures, but I am easily distracted. I need that time to focus before I start class.)

3. repeatedly skipping class and expecting me to “lecture” during office hours
   (I don’t mind covering the material with you in my office, but there is only so much we can cover in one sitting.)

4. point grubbing
   (When I grade quizzes and tests I go through all the papers twice to ensure that equivalent credit is given to equivalent work. If you feel I have made an error, please submit a written request for me to review the matter.)

5. cheating, etc.
   Cheating will result in failure of not only the exam / assignment, but also the course.

If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock Building (227-1700). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines. *This syllabus is subject to change with notice.*