College Algebra & Trigonometry  
MA 104 Winter 2014
8:00 – 8:50 AM (Section 04)  
MW WS 2901, TR LRC 108

Professor: Dr. Linda Lawton  
Office: NSF 1107  
Email: llawton@nmu.edu  
Office Hours: 2:00 – 2:45 TR & 12:00 – 2:30 F, or by appointment

Text: Kaufmann & Schwitters, Algebra for College Students, 9th Edition

Prerequisites: MA 100 or satisfactory score on the math placement exam.

Course Description: This course includes a review of basic algebra, solving equations and inequalities, functions and graphing, linear, quadratic, polynomial, and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions. Right triangle trigonometry will be briefly covered, along with the Laws of Sines and Cosines.

“Homework”: Homework problems from the text will be assigned but not collected - instead we will have daily/weekly quizzes and in-class grades (group worksheets) worth a total of 1200 daily points. I will “forgive” 200 points—i.e. if at the end of the semester you have accumulated 1000 points, you will receive 100% for your homework average. In light of this, there will not be “make-up” quizzes/worksheets—the “forgiven” 150 points accounts for necessary absences.

Exams: There will be four in-class exams spaced roughly 3½ 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 4</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final**</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
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Grade scale:
- 91 – 100% = A
- 81 – 89% = B
- 71 – 79% = C
- 61 – 69% = D
- < 60% = F

**Students must earn at least 60% on the final exam to pass the course.

Learning Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:
- Understand and apply the rules of linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic relations to solve equations.
- Understand and apply the concepts and properties of a function to model real-world situations, and solve scenarios involving these functions.
- Apply trigonometry to solve scenarios involving triangle relationships.

Student achievement of these learning outcomes will be measured through:
Performance on homework and exams
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.

Foundation of Natural Sciences/Mathematics Requirement: This course satisfies the Foundation of Natural Sciences/Mathematics requirement. Students who complete this course should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of mathematical logic; use mathematics to solve scientific or mathematical problems in college classes; express relationships in the symbolic language of mathematics; and appreciate the role of mathematics in analyzing natural phenomena.

ADA Statement: If you have need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Service Office 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.