

Syllabus for MATH 100 - College Algebra: A Modeling Approach

Professor Keough, Spring, 2009

Abbreviated Version

Course Description

MATH 100 presents a modeling approach to algebraic topics used in problem solving. Topics include constructing, manipulating, and solving equations which involve linear, exponential, logarithmic, quadratic, and polynomial functions. Graphing and data analysis/modeling are also essential components of the course.

Emphasis will be placed primarily on skills development with the intent that students leaving this course will have the fundamental skills necessary to enter MATH 160 Introduction to Applied Calculus (a one-semester Calculus course designed for students in the management, biological, social and behavioral sciences). An important, albeit secondary, emphasis in the course is placed on the process of representing real-world situations in the language of mathematical equations and functions, and later interpreting their solutions and behaviors.

Prerequisites

High school Algebra I and II.

Textbook

College Algebra through Functions and Models, by Scott R. Herriot, Thompson Brooks/Cole (ISBN: 0-534-37749-1). The course covers the following content: Chapter 1 (all); Chapter 2 (all); Chapter 3 (Section 1 and some of Section 4); Chapter 4 (Sections 1 through 4 only); Chapter 5 (all except Section 3); Chapter 6 (Sections 1, 2 and 4 only); and Chapter 7 (all except Section 4).

Graphing Calculator

A graphing calculator comparable to the TI-83 or TI-84 is required for the course. You'll use it for exams, quizzes, and assignments, and you should have it with you in class every day.

When and Where We Meet

Our class meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between January 26 and May 11, with the *only* exceptions being the week of Spring Break (March 16, 18, and 20). We meet in **Devilbiss Hall room 109**, with Section 001 gathering from 1:00 to 1:50 PM, and section 002 from 2:00 to 2:50 PM.

Class Website

We will use Blackboard/WebCT as our official means of communication. Log in to myclasses.salisbury.edu using your usual username and password. You'll find a calendar of class coverage, a link to the complete syllabus that includes information on class policies and procedures, info on your grades, links to websites, and whatever else we can provide. In particular, all class assignments will appear on the website and you are expected to learn of them through the website.

Examinations and Quizzes

Exams. The following are the dates for exams this semester:

- Exam #1 (in-class): *Wednesday, February 18*
- Exam #2 (in-class): *Wednesday, March 11*
- Exam #3 (in-class): *Wednesday, April 8*
- Exam #4 (in-class): *Wednesday, April 29*
- Final Exam:
 - *for Section 001: Monday, May 18, beginning at 10:45 AM (1.5 hour exam)*
 - *for Section 002: Tuesday, May 19, beginning at 4:15 PM (1.5 hour exam)*

Quizzes. Beginning Friday, February 6, we will have a quiz at the end of class every Friday in weeks when there is no examination. This will be a total of nine (9) quizzes this semester. The material for each quiz will be (unless announced otherwise) drawn from the content of the previous Friday and Monday classes.

For exams and quizzes, you should bring your graphing calculator. No notes, books, or electronic devices other than your graphing calculator may be used during exams.

Students are expected to take exams and quizzes on the assigned dates and with the section of the class in which they are registered. *There are no makeup exams. There are no makeup quizzes.*

Assignments

Homework assignments will be given at every class. Solutions for (most) exercises will be posted on the assignments page our class website at myclasses.salisbury.edu. You should first try to work through the problems of the assignments yourself, then compare notes with other students and with the published solutions. You need not hand in any written work based on these assignments; but I encourage you to write out your own solutions as you go.

Semester Grading

The four, in-class examinations will count **16%** each. The cumulative, 1.5 hour final exam will count **24%**. The *best seven of your nine* quiz results will collectively count **12%**. Your final, letter grade will be determined primarily from this computation, with minor adjustments for whatever else I know about your situation.

Office Hours/Getting Help

Professor G. E. Keough

Henson Science Building Room 130, 410.543.6467

Monday: 8:45 – 9:45; 3:00 – 4:30

Wednesday: 8:45 – 9:45; 3:00 – 4:30

Friday: 8:45 – 9:45

I expect to be available on some Tuesdays this semester, almost always on the day prior to an examination, and will announce these as we go through the semester. I am not on campus on Thursday. Other hours may be available by appointment.