SYLLABUS: Math 115 PRECALCULUS Don Faust

In this course we will get familiar with a broad spectrum of fundamental mathematical systems and techniques, each of which occurs often in the wide variety of mathematical attacks which have so far been invented for addressing problems. Many of these systems and techniques will be very helpful to you as you proceed further with your mathematical studies, and indeed the particular focus in this course will be to become well-prepared for the wonderful mathematical adventure of the Calculus.

More generally, the following broad perspective may be helpful to you. The fundamental tools of mathematics provide a rich storehouse of models for the representation and solution of many problems. Making intelligent use of these models involves both (1) developing a facility for analyzing problems and casting them in ways which, where appropriate, make good use of these models of mathematics, and (2) developing a facility for working with these models themselves. Our course will take us through a representative sample of these tools of mathematics, and will concentrate on both aspects (1) and (2) delineated above. It can be a very exciting journey (if your involvement is sincere and includes both good class attendance and a parallel daily commitment to hammering things out on your own through daily study and problem-solving), at the end of which you will find not only that your mathematical maturity has been substantially enriched, but also that the general analytical skills you bring to bear in the broader arena of your daily life will be substantially enriched as well.

Text:

Precalculus: mathematics for Calculus by Stewart et al

Evaluation:

Firstly, in addition to ungraded daily assignments, there will be a sequence of graded SUBMITTED ASSIGNMENTS which can be resubmitted repeatedly until satisfactory.

Secondly, there will be four mid-semester exams and a final exam. Only very exceptional circumstances could justify missing an exam; in these rare cases, permission must be requested in advance, and a make-up exam **(**usually oral) will be arranged for later in the semester.

The evaluation framework is as follows (please note especially the dates, already fixed, when the four mid-semester exams will take place):

Exam 1:	Tues	25 Sep	150 points
Exam 2:	Tues	16 Oct	150 points
Exam 3:	Tues	6 Nov	150 points
Exam 4:	Tues	4 Dec	150 points
Final Exam:			350 points
Submitted Assignments: to be submitted en masse on Tues 4 Dec for grade recording			50 points
		Total:	1000 points

Grading:

90-100%, A; 80-89%, B; 70-79%, C; 60-69%, D; 0-59%, F. The grading may be less stringent, but not more stringent, than this.

Note regarding special needs:

If you have a need for any disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services Office in 1104 University Center (227-1737). 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.