

Course Syllabus: MA 104 College Algebra with Applications in the Sciences and Technologies

Class Time and Location: 12:30 P.M., MTWTh, 1209 NSF

Instructor: Richard Balding

Office: Seaborg (NSF) 1013

Phone: 227-1479 (office), 225-1837 (home)

Office Hours: By appointment

Course objective:

This course is designed for those whose major requires college algebra (and possibly trigonometry) but does not require calculus. Emphasis will be placed on using algebra to express functional relationships, to solve applied problems and to communicate your solutions in words and symbols. This course will teach the use of the graphing calculator (or graphing calculator utility on the laptop), and includes an introduction to trigonometry.

Requirements:

1. Attendance is required and will be taken daily. Excessive (more than 3) unexcused absences may cause a drop in your grade at the end of the semester. Topics will be covered outside of the book and you need to be there to get them. In case of an illness or other emergency that would result in a class absence, you will be responsible for keeping up with the class work and for notifying me if you want the absence to be considered excused.

On days of tests or quizzes. YOU must call my voice mail or home before class to be excused.

1. Homework will be assigned at the end of most classes. Most of the time the homework will not be collected, but is essential to your learning the material. The best way to learn math is to do math. Reading the text is also important, since part of our goal is to learn to communicate mathematically.
2. your final grade is determined from a combination of the points achieved from your collected homework (if any), quizzes, tests and your final exam. Quizzes may be given on short amounts of material. Tests will normally be given at the end of each chapter, and will be worth more than the quizzes. The final will be about the size and value of about one and a half tests.

Required Materials:

1. A Modeling Alternative to College Algebra, by Bruce Crauder, Benny Evans and Alan Noell, Houghton Mifflin, 1999.
2. Graphing Calculator: TI-85 (or comparable) or TI interactive on your laptop.

Material to be covered:

We will cover most or all of chapters 1 - 4 and parts of chapters 5,6,and 7.

Grading Scale: (Approximate)

90-100% A's 80-89% B's 70 - 79 % C's 60-69% D's Below 60 % F

Other Notes:

The math lab on the third floor (East side) of West Science is open from 9 - 4, M - Th and 9 - 3 on Friday. Tutoring may also be available, but you must seek help from me first (for the free tutoring) If you have a need for disability related accommodations or services, please inform me or the Office of Student Support and Disability Services at 405 Cohodas (phone: 227-1550, TOO: 227- 1543). 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.