

MATH 153

Precalculus I

Fall 2007, M-F

9-9:50am, Bouillon 110 1-1:50pm, Science 142

Instructor: Jessica Giglio

Office: Hertz 222

Office Hours: MWF 2:30-4pm, and by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook: *Precalculus: A Problems-Oriented Approach (6th ed.)*, by David Cohen

Course Description: This course is intended for students majoring in mathematics, sciences, technology, or economics. Precalculus I covers the theory, techniques, and applications of the basic functions. The use of graphing calculators is expected during class, on homework, and on quizzes and tests. Selected sections from chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the text will be used to address the concepts, procedures, and skills associated with functions.

Calculator: You are required to have a graphing calculator for this class—please bring it every day. The TI-83 and -84 are strongly recommended and will be used by the instructor in class.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance will not be taken, but daily attendance is expected and considered a **necessity** for passing this course. If you miss a class, you should get the notes from a classmate as soon as possible and also find out what announcements you may have missed.

Homework and Quizzes: Suggested homework assignments will be given to help you practice new skills, but this homework will not be collected. However, many quiz and test questions will be very similar to homework problems and/or examples given in class. **Six** quizzes will be given throughout the quarter, and you may **drop your lowest score**. These quizzes will be **take-home**, and you will have two days to complete each one.

Quizzes are worth 20 points each, for a total of 100 points.

Exams: There will be **three** in-class exams, covering one to two chapters of the book each. The tentative dates for the exams are October 5, October 24, and November 14. You can resubmit solutions to exam questions to gain back **one fourth** of the points lost. Details about this process will be announced when the first exam is handed back.

Exams are worth 100 points each, for a total of 300 points.

Projects: You will do **two** projects during the quarter. You will spend one full class day working on each project in groups, and then finish and write it up on your own later. The projects will involve some critical thinking and writing in addition to using mathematical concepts. You will be graded on in-class participation, mathematical accuracy, clarity, and readability. The tentative dates for the in-class portions of the projects are October 2 and November 7.

Projects are worth 50 points each, for a total of 100 points.

Final Exam: The final exam will take place on Wednesday 12/5 (at 8am for the morning class and 12pm for the afternoon class). It will be cumulative, with special emphasis on the last few sections of Chapter 5, which will be covered after the last in-class exam. All of the questions on earlier chapters will come directly from your old tests and quizzes, with only the numbers changed.

The final exam is worth 150 points.

Grading: Your final percentage grade will be determined by dividing your point total by the **650** points available.

93+, A	90-92, A-	87-89, B+	83-86, B	80-82, B-	77-79, C+	73-76, C
70-72, C-	67-69, D+	60-66, D	below 60, F			

Since incompletes will not be given except in the most serious circumstances, make sure you are aware that the last date for uncontested withdrawal is Nov. 2, so your grade does not affect your financial aid.

Late Work and Make-ups: There will be no make-ups for quizzes. If you must miss class for a university-sanctioned activity, you can pick up the quiz from me ahead of time. You can only make up tests under *serious* circumstances and at my discretion, in which case you may be given a different version than the rest of the class. Projects are considered late after 5pm on the day that they are due, and late projects will be accepted for a 50% reduction in points.

Blackboard: I will record all grades in Blackboard, but please note that it does not automatically drop your lowest quiz score, so your actual grade may be different than the one that appears in Blackboard. Most of the handouts you receive in class will also be posted on Blackboard in the Course Documents section. This syllabus can be found in the Course Information section. Any changes to the tentative project and exam dates listed in the syllabus will be posted as Announcements.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS

We cover a lot of material in this class, so it is important to attend every day and keep up with the homework. Also read through the textbook sections—they are full of excellent examples and thorough explanations. If you are having trouble, seek help before you fall too far behind. You can come to my office hours, set up alternate times to meet with me, send me an email, stop by the University Math Center, or hire a private tutor. You are also *strongly encouraged* to work together on homework and when studying for tests. If requested, I may be able to arrange a room where your group can meet in the evening. There will also be an evening review session before each exam.

Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should give me a copy of their “Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments” from the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office as soon as possible so we can discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in this class. Students without this form should contact the DSS Office (Bouillon 205 or dssreceipt@cwu.edu or 963-2171).