

Math 153.01 Fall 2010
Pre-Calculus 1
Bouillon 110, 9:00-9:50

Instructor: Dr. Jim Bisgard

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10:00-11:00, and by appointment.

Course Description: This course is designed to prepare students to take Calculus and Calculus-based science courses.

Course Goals: After passing this class, you should be able to

1. Analyze functions and equations numerically, algebraically, and graphically
2. Model real-world problems with appropriate functions
3. Determine the reasonableness of solutions, including sign, size, relative accuracy, and units of measurement.

Required Text: David Cohen, Pre-Calculus: A Problems-Oriented Approach 6th edition, Thomson Learning

Calculator: A graphing calculator is required for class and exams. If you have a question about whether your calculator is suitable, please see me.

1 Grades/Exams/Quizzes/Homework

Grades

Grades will be calculated using the following weighting system: Exams: 55% (broken up as follows: 15% for each mid-term and 25% for the final), Quizzes: 40%, and Homework: 5%. This corresponds to the formula

$$(.4) * \frac{\text{quiz points received}}{\text{quiz points possible}} + (.05) * \frac{\text{HW points received}}{\text{HW points possible}} + (.15) * \frac{\text{Exam 1 score}}{\text{points possible on Exam 1}} \\ + (.15) * \frac{\text{Exam 2 score}}{\text{points possible on Exam 2}} + (.25) * \frac{\text{Final Exam score}}{\text{points possible on Final Exam}}.$$

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

	87 – 89.9 : B+	77 – 79.9 : C+	67 – 69.9 : D+	below 60 : F
93 – 100 : A	83 – 86.9 : B	73 – 76.9 : C	63 – 66.9 : D	
90 – 92.9 : A–	80 – 82.9 : B–	70 – 72.9 : C–	60 – 62.9 : D–	

Exams

There will be two mid-terms and a final. The mid-terms will be in class on October 13 and November 4. Make-up exams for the mid-term will be at my discretion, must be requested **before** (if possible) **or within 24 hours after the exam**, and will only be given if you have evidence of a compelling reason for missing the exam (sickness, jail, field-trip, University athletic event, etc.). When a make-up exam cannot be taken before I return the corrected exam, I reserve the right to instead replace that portion of your course grade with

your final exam grade. The final exam is Wednesday, December 8, 8:00-10:00 and will be cumulative. **There will be NO early finals, so DO NOT plan on leaving before the final!**

Quizzes

We will have a take-home quiz every week, except for those weeks when we have an exam. **Each quiz will be due at 3:00 two days after being handed out.** (So, a quiz handed out on Tuesday will be due at 3:00 on Thursday.) I encourage you to work with other students, but you should write up your solutions in your own words.

Homework

Almost every day in class, you will receive a few homework problems. **Problems assigned on a Wednesday or later will be due on the Friday of the following week at 3:00.** (For example, the problems from September 22, 23, 24, 27 or 28 will all be due at 3:00 on Friday, October 1.) I will mostly grade on completion. This means I'll be most interested in the work you've done - if you just write down an answer, you won't receive any points. It is a good idea to work with other students from class. We won't have time to do every homework problem in class, so please feel free to ask during office hours. However, don't put off asking about homework until the day before it's due! (It makes me very impatient when you come by every twenty minutes to ask about material we covered a week ago!) We may also have occasional worksheets, for which you will receive one extra credit point on your homework score if you are in class on the day the worksheet is handed out.

2 General Comments/Policies

Late and Make-up Policy for Homework and Quizzes

I will accept a late homework or quiz (but not both!) for full credit twice. However, you must turn this homework or quiz in within two class days of the due date. After that, I will not accept any late work for credit. You may be excused from a quiz or homework if you have proof of a compelling reason. As an example: if you are sick, I will need a doctor's note. In addition, you must notify me before (if possible) or within two days after the due date to be excused from a quiz or homework. I will not excuse you from a quiz or homework for circumstances you know about ahead of time!

Daily attendance is expected and considered necessary for success. It is your responsibility to find out what was covered on days you were absent. Please bring a calculator to each class meeting. You are responsible for any announcements made in class regarding homework, exams, and quizzes - even from days when you are absent! When you come to office hours, you must bring your class notes. Handouts from class may be found at www.cwu.edu/~bisgardj/teaching.html.

Students who have special needs or disabilities that may affect their ability to access information or material presented in this course are encouraged to contact me or the office of Disability Support Services at (509) 963-2171 for additional disability-related educational accommodations.

3 Important Dates

September 28 - last day of add/drop
October 13 - first mid-term
November 4 - second mid-term
November 5 - uncontested withdrawal deadline
December 8, 8:00 - 10:00 - final exam