

## Math 153—Precalculus I: Winter 2012

### Office Hours--

Daily 2:00-3:00

Available most T/Th for drop in from 11:00-11:50

By appointment when needed

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**Course Summary: Precalculus I is a course that helps prepare students to take calculus and calculus-based science courses. This course stresses the mastering of essential mathematics concepts and functions. Tests and homework assignments reflect the ability of students to handle rigorous assessments at the university level.** Basic course goals include:

1. Analyzing functions and equations numerically, algebraically, and graphically.
2. Modeling real-world problems with appropriate functions.
3. Understanding the transformation of functions and connection between functions.
4. Using technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and verify conclusions.
5. Determining reasonableness of solutions, including sign, size, relative accuracy, and units of measurement.
6. Appreciating that the procedure for solving a problem is as important as the answer, and that a variety of procedures can be used to solve most problems.
7. Communicating knowledge in both everyday and mathematical language.
8. First quiz: within first 2 weeks visit me in my office ( $t < 5$  min & can be w/ others in class)—10 pts—quiz will be posted on blackboard.
9. The university grade scale will be used (A=93%, B=83%, C=73%, D=63%)

### Necessities

1. Come to class! Math requires a daily commitment—if you haven't learned this by now, you will by the end of the quarter. Do the homework—send problems to me by 6:00 AM.
2. Textbook: *Precalculus A problems-oriented approach* by Cohen (seventh edition).
3. Scientific calculator: should have graphing capabilities (I will usually use a TI-83+)
4. Participate in class—ask questions, take notes, etc—it helps you and makes class better!
5. Communicate with the instructor...email, office hours...
6. Get help! I will do all that I can for you. I am interested in your success in this course, but you need to come to me. Form study groups, get a study partner, or take advantage of the Math Learning Center in Hertz Hall. Tutoring is available!

### Special points of interest:

1. Daily homework is assigned, but not collected. E-mail before class, questions you have.
2. There will be four tests and a final exam. A 3x5 note card can be used on tests. The first four tests can be retaken outside of class (in order to take advantage of this students must demonstrate completion of hw for the chapter—do the work, not just answers!) Maximum grade for retake is improvement of two grades (no grade above a B+ for retakes).
3. Grades based on total points and % (quizzes—? pts, tests 400 points, and final 150 pts.)
4. You (the class) will be invited to my home for dinner sometime over the quarter...