

Pre-Calculus I (Math 153) — Spring, 2012

Location and Time: 10:00-10:50 am, MTWThF, Hertz 119

Instructor: Dr. Dan Curtis

Office: 107a Bouillon

Office Hours: MTWThF 12:00-12:50 am. Actually, you can come by my office at any time and, unless I am occupied, I will be happy to talk with you.

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Final Exam: Wednesday, June 6, 8:00-10:00 am

Textbook: Precalculus by D. Cohen, et al, Seventh Edition. **The textbook is required.**

Calculator: A graphing calculator will be necessary for this course. Classroom demonstrations will be given using the TI-83+. If you have a different scientific calculator, it will probably do everything you need to do, but you'll be on your own to figure out how to use it.

Course Content: The course will cover material from chapters 1-5 of the text. This course is called pre-calculus. The material is presented with an eye toward its use in subsequent calculus courses. You should read the book. The examples in the text will supplement those given in class and the discussion and examples given in the text will provide reinforcement for material presented in class.

Class Attendance: You are expected to attend class daily, but your attendance does not count toward your grade. If you miss class, you must consult classmates to find out what you missed.

Homework: Numerous problems will be assigned and some problems will be graded:

- There will be five homework sets handed in for grading;
- Each of these will consist of ten problems and will be graded on the basis of 100 points. Your lowest score will be dropped. The sum of your best four scores on these assignments will be divided by 8, resulting in a number h , with $0 \leq h \leq 50$, which will be added to your point total for the course. (See the section below on grading for more details.)
- These assignments must be written up in a neat and legible manner. Messy work with scratch-outs will not be graded. Use pencil so that mistakes can be neatly erased.
- The dates when these assignments are due are given in the schedule part of this syllabus.
- No late homework will be accepted. Each assignment must be handed in by 5:00 pm on the date due.
- Problems like those assigned to hand in will be discussed during class and your instructor is available during office hours. You may discuss the homework problems with your classmates or friends, but you should do your own work if you are to benefit from the effort.
- Use will be made of graphing calculators during class, on homework, and on exams.

Course Prerequisites: The main things you need are basic algebra and geometry skills. Assignments will be given to reinforce these skills, but you should have a decent command of basic algebra and geometry going in.

Learner Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Utilize and apply functions given numerically, graphically, or algebraically;
- Identify domains and ranges for given functions;
- Work with functional notation;
- Describe and use algebraic combinations of functions, function composition, and inverse functions;
- Solve problems involving power law functions, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions;
- Solve problems involving polynomials and rational functions;
- Solve problems involving the absolute value function.
- Solve problems involving horizontal, vertical and oblique asymptotes.

Students with disabilities: If you require accommodation based on a documented disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case of emergency evacuation, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Grading: Your course grade will be determined by the following:

1. **Four 100-point** in-class exams will be given. Your **best three** scores will count toward your grade. In other words, I will **drop** your **lowest** score.

No makeup exams will be given.

If for **any reason** you miss an exam, it will be the one you get to drop. If you miss more than one of the exams, you will get 0 for the exams missed in excess of 1.

The **dates** of the four exams can be found in the Schedule portion of this syllabus.

The in-class exams are therefore worth up to **300 points** toward your course grade.

2. **Your highest four homework scores** worth up to **50 points**.
3. A **comprehensive final exam** worth **100 points**

A perfect score on each of the above categories would result in a total of 450 points. Your course grade will be determined by the percentage p of these points you earn, according to the following scale.

$90 \leq p$	A	$65 \leq p < 77.5$	C
$89 \leq p < 90$	A-	$64 \leq p < 65$	C-
$87.5 \leq p < 89$	B+	$62.5 \leq p < 64$	D+
$80 \leq p < 87.5$	B	$50 \leq p < 62.5$	D
$79 \leq p < 80$	B-	$p < 50$	F
$77.5 \leq p < 79$	C+		

Class Schedule (48 class days)

Date	Class Activity	Date	Class Activity
03/26		05/07	
03/27	Classes begin	05/08	
03/28		05/09	
03/29		05/10	
03/30	HW1 due	05/11	HW4 due
04/02		05/14	
04/03		05/15	
04/04		05/16	
04/05		05/17	
04/06	Exam 1	05/18	Exam 4
04/09		05/21	
04/10		05/22	
04/11		05/23	
04/12		05/24	
04/13	HW2 due	05/25	HW5 due
04/16		05/28	HOLIDAY: Memorial Day
04/17		05/29	
04/18		05/30	
04/19		05/31	
04/20	Exam 2	06/01	Last day of classes
04/23		06/04	Prof. Dev./ Student Study Day
04/24		06/05	
04/25		06/06	Final Exam (8:00-10:00 am)
04/26		06/07	
04/27	HW3 due	06/08	
04/30			
05/01			
05/02			
05/03			
05/04	Exam 3		