

Pre-Calculus 1 Syllabus

Math 153, 5 Credits, Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Teri Willard

Meeting Time: 11:00 –11:50 am, M – F

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Office Hours: 10 – 10:50 am Monday–
Friday, by appointment, or
by email!

Text: *Precalculus A Problems–Oriented Approach*, Sixth Edition, David Cohen. We will be covering most of Chapters 1 through 5 of this textbook.

Supplies: paper, sharp pencils, TI–83/84 **graphing calculator** (recommended models – I base handouts and class work on these models.) I also recommend a **3-ring binder** to keep everything organized and to keep any handouts that I pre–punch for you. Handouts are designed to help you process and/or practice essential concepts and skills.

Course Description: Prerequisite Math 100C or equivalent. This is a foundation course that stresses algebraic and elementary function concepts and the manipulative skills essential to the study of calculus. Numerical, graphical, and algebraic approaches will be used to give students a better understanding of the mathematical concepts important in the study of calculus. This course incorporates **graphing calculators** throughout the quarter as they are excellent tools for visualizing some mathematical concepts.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to explain and analyze the various features of linear, quadratic, exponential, and logarithmic functions. You will be able to demonstrate understanding of the following topics: functions and their graphs; inverse functions; rates of change and exponential growth; and solving linear, quadratic, exponential, and logarithmic equations algebraically, graphically, and numerically. Detailed objective sheets will be given at appropriate times during the quarter.

Course Policies

Expectations: It is expected that you have basic algebra skills and knowledge of linear and quadratic functions. In addition, you need to be familiar with radical, rational, and exponential functions, and general graphing techniques. Tests and quizzes will be written **assuming** you have a **graphing calculator**.

Attendance: Daily attendance is expected and considered a necessity for passing this course. It is also expected that your presence will contribute to and never distract from the learning of others in the class. Attendance and appropriate participation in class is crucial to your success.

Suggestions for success: Many students find that forming peer study groups is very helpful to their success. In addition, there is a math-tutoring center (Hertz 104) where you can find additional help. My office hours are listed above and you can contact me for an appointment for additional help as necessary. The key factor is to not get behind. Mathematics is a cumulative subject where new topics depend upon mastery of previous concepts. Finally, I suggest that you

read every lesson and work through every example in addition to completing the suggested homework problems.

Homework: Suggested homework assignments will be given to help you practice new skills. However, your homework papers will never be collected nor graded. It is your responsibility to take charge of your own learning. No one can learn this material for you. You will find that many quiz and test questions will be very similar to homework problems and/or examples given in class. You will probably find that each homework assignment will take at least 2 hours. You must commit this amount of time, and additional preparation time for tests, to be successful in this course.

Grading

Your grade will be calculated using the following system. Homework is neither graded nor collected.

In-Class Exams (300 points – 50%): There will be three (3) in-class exams each worth 100 points. The dates for these tests will be announced well in advance. Make-up tests will be allowed only for extraordinary circumstances that must be addressed before the absence, not after. **No low grades in this category will be dropped. No retakes are given. Calculators are OK, but no notes.**

Final Exam (200 points – 33.3%): The final exam will cover new material from the 3rd test to the end of the quarter and material from previous chapters. The final is to be taken at the scheduled time.

Quizzes (100 points – 16.6%): Six 20–point take–home quizzes will be handed out at appropriate times during the quarter. These quizzes **MUST** be turned in on time, or a score of 0 will result. Since $6 \cdot 20 = 120$, one quiz score will be dropped, and, again, quizzes **will not** be accepted late.

Grades: total points = 600 from above

93- 100% 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+	63- 66% D	60- 62% D-	<60% F
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Additional Information

Academic Honesty: There are times when it is proper to get help from others and times when it is not. Feel free to ask others for help on homework and take-home quizzes. You can only learn how to do something new by doing it correctly. During tests, you must do your own work. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated during any testing situation.

Policy for in-class tests: Calculators will be allowed on all tests. But, calculators may not be shared if you forget yours. Cell phone calculators are not OK. Cell phones, headphones, and similar items may not be accessed during tests. **No notes are allowed on tests.**

Schedule: You will receive a tentative list of assignments. Additional problems may be assigned as needed. You will also receive a calendar where you can record important dates, such as test dates, as they are announced.

Success: To be successful, you must work hard and be organized. You must also study regularly, take notes, do your homework, and read the textbook (Read each lesson before you come to class. I will let you know which lessons I am covering in class and you will be responsible to read the upcoming lesson and do the appropriate homework.) You also must attend class – and promote your own learning by actively listening – cell phone usage and talking with peers will hinder your understanding during class. You must seek help before you are in trouble and/or too far behind. Never hesitate to ask for help from me, your classmates, or anyone else who can help. I am here to serve you and help you be successful. If you need help, decide what you need help with and write it down. If you are working on a problem unsuccessfully, write down the approaches you have tried. Then seek help with your paper in hand. Write down the helpful hints you receive. **Remember: You are paying for this class. Take advantage of all possible resources to assure that you will succeed.**

Additional Note: 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 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 Disability Support Services Office, Bouillon 205, or dssrecept@cwu.edu or 963–2171.

Good luck in this course! I hope you find it enjoyable and never hesitate to talk to me if you have any problems.