

Pre-Calculus 153 Syllabus

Spring 2013

Instructor: Jim Miller

Office: Bouillon 119, Phone 963-2123, Hours: 9-10 and 12-2 irregularly because I will be observing student teachers. It would be best to schedule with instructor. I can also be reached: cell 674 8138; Skype: mathdemazed; Yahoo IM: mathdemazed@yahoo.com, texting works to schedule a meeting time.

Classroom: 153.002 11:00-11:50 in Bouillon 144.

Text: *Pre-calculus*, Ninth Edition, Sullivan. We will be covering most of Chapters 1 through 5 of this textbook with possibly some other bits and pieces.

Supplies: Paper, graph paper, sharp pencils, **graphing calculator** (recommend TI-83 or TI-84). Fine a way to keep organized (three ring binder or whatever) that you will bring every day to class.

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 the use of **graphing calculators**, as they are excellent tools for visualizing some mathematical concepts and offer alternative ways of manipulating the mathematics.

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. If your skills are weak, you will be expected to be spending extra time early and perhaps throughout the course to succeed. Some students have spent as much as 4-5 hours out of class working on the material. Failure will be a choice you will have to make. Success will be the other option! Choose this option though it may be the harder choice. You can track your progress on Blackboard.

Attendance: Daily attendance is expected and considered a necessity for passing this course. It is expected that you **actively** participate in class. Attendance and appropriate participation in class is crucial to your success and will be recorded.

Suggestions for success: Many students find that forming peer study groups is very helpful to their success. In addition, there are several other resources: math-tutoring center (Library), YouTube and other websites, and the instructor. The key factor is to not get behind. Mathematics is a cumulative subject where new topics depend upon mastery of previous concepts. Finally, read every lesson and work through every example in addition to completing the suggested homework problems.

Homework: Homework will be collected daily, perused, and recorded. Assignments can be found on Blackboard and will be given in class. Changes in due dates may occur occasionally and will be stated in class. It is essential that you practice your math and **ASK** for guidance in areas where your understanding is weak. Completion of homework every day **MUST BE** a priority for you!

Grading: Your grade will be based on: the five chapter tests (60%); final (30%); homework, participation, attendance, and quizzes (10%). Letter grades based on the overall percentage: 93 A, 90 A-, 87 B+, 83 B, 80 B-, 77 C+, 73 C, 70 C-, 67 D+, 63 D, 60 D-.

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 or dssrecept@cwu.edu or 963-2171.