

Math 153-001

Pre-Calculus

Winter 2014

HERTZ 119, 8:00 am daily

Phone: 963-2602

Instructor: Thad O'Dell, Bouillon 122

Office Hour: 10:00 am, M to Th

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Text: Pre-Calculus by Sullivan, bundled with a "My Math Lab" license. You will be doing homework online, so make plans for using student computer labs or arrange other online access.

Final Exam: Wed, March 19 8:00 am NO EXCEPTIONS If this presents a problem, you need to consider changing sections.

This syllabus sets out my expectations for the classwork which will determine your grade. It is most important that you read and understand it. Ask questions if you need to. Keep it for reference. If you have special needs or requirements to facilitate your progress, or outside activities which will interfere with class, you need to make arrangements with me as soon as possible.

Description: Math 153 is a 5-credit course designed to develop both the concepts and the procedural skills in advanced algebra that will prepare you for the study of Calculus. There will be problem solving, analysis, and communication required in addition to algebraic, graphical, and numerical approaches to the patterns we study. You need to already have a proficiency in a range of math skills, including linear and quadratic functions, which will be built upon during the course. When you finish, you will have proficiency with functions in general, including operations, compositions, and graphs. You also will have mastery of the specific features and applications of linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, polynomial, and rational functions.

Time: The general rule of thumb for college is 2 hours outside of class for each hour in class. Expect to spend 10 hours per week outside of class to be successful (some may need more, some less . . .). You choose to succeed or not by how you spend your time and energy. The only way to gain the skills required for success in this class is through practice. It requires a LOT of time. Plan ahead and make sure you have time available. Homework is strictly YOUR responsibility. You are here because you choose to be. Lack of effort will result in a waste of YOUR time and money!

Expectations: The primary resource is class. BE THERE! TRULY THERE Uni-tasking! The lost art of doing one thing at a time, focusing, and doing it to the best of your ability. Turn off your phones, ipods, ipads, etc. during class. You have to show up, do your work, ask meaningful questions, and get help as needed in order to succeed. If you must be gone, you are responsible to find out what you have missed. Blackboard can be helpful in that endeavor.

Respect yourself: Believe your education is important enough to put forth the effort. Your future is worth investing in.

Respect others: me, classmates, the school, etc. don't be rude and don't cheat.

Resources: The textbook is a good resource. Another is your classmates. Group studying is recommended; study groups can be organized early on. A graphing calculator is required. Smart phone apps will not do, as you can not use a phone during quizzes and tests (hopefully for obvious reasons). A TI-83 Plus or TI-84 plus is recommended, as I can help with those, but other calculators are acceptable if you read your own manual.

Grading: There will be 3 exams and a Final Exam. There will also be an assortment of quizzes both in class and take home. The in class quizzes will be unannounced and there will be no make ups. Tentative dates of the exams are Jan 22, Feb 14, and March 11.