

# PRECALCULUS I

Math 153-001, Winter 2016  
M-F 8:00-8:50 AM, Bouillon 111

**Instructor:** Tyler Suronen

**Office:** Black 225-40

**Office Hours:** M-F 9-9:50 AM

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**Text:** *Precalculus*, Michael Sullivan, 2nd Custom Edition for CWU.

**Description:** A foundation course which stresses those algebraic and elementary function concepts together with the manipulative skills essential to the study of calculus.

## Required Materials:

- The Text: Practice problems will be assigned from the text regularly.
- A graphing calculator: TI-83 or TI-84 is preferable. I will teach using the TI-83. Higher TI models (such as TI-89) will have similar features, but the steps may differ.
- Internet access for:
  - E-mail: Primary method of communication outside of class and office hours.
  - Canvas: For announcements and additional materials.
  - MyMathLab: For online homework assignments. Access codes for MyMathLab can be purchased with the text or separately. Access MyMathLab for this course through Canvas.

**Attendance:** Daily attendance is important for your success in this course. It will be your primary source for learning in this course. Announcements will be made during lecture and assignments given and received. If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining any information or materials presented in lecture. Please bring your text and calculator to every lecture. The calculator will be handy for in-class work (which will be frequent) and the text will be used to reference tables, graphs, etc.

## Grade percent breakdown:

- HW 10%
- Quizzes 20%
- Exams 45%
- Final Exam 25%

**Grades:** You must show all work. Answers without adequate justification will not receive full credit. Any kind of guess-and-check solution or recalling the solution without showing the process will not suffice. Occasionally, answers without work or explanation will be acceptable (e.g. reading values from a graph) and I will make it explicitly clear when such problems are given. I will make clear the amount of detail necessary with examples in lectures. Problems

will be done by hand unless explicitly stated otherwise. Answers should be presented in exact form unless explicitly stated otherwise (that means giving as many digits as you are given: no rounding).

Your overall grade will be calculated by percentage of completed work with the following cutoffs (+/- grades will be determined later).

$$90 \leq A$$

$$80 \leq B < 90$$

$$70 \leq C < 80$$

$$60 \leq D < 70$$

$$F < 60$$

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned frequently. Homework from the text will be assigned for practice. Worksheets from Canvas and online homework through MyMathLab will be graded. Homework is worth 10% of your total grade. Although homework will vary in length each is worth the same percent of your grade. The homework will reflect the material covered recently in class. It is expected that you keep up with the homework. You are expected to attempt all problems. I will take homework questions at the start of lectures. If you struggle with homework I recommend that you: 1. Talk to me 2. Check your notes and the text 3. Consult your fellow students and your friends. Math is mostly a collaborative effort (especially at higher levels). You can learn by working with others. My only warning is that you don't become dependent on others for their assistance/knowledge/support.

**Quizzes:** We will have a quiz during any week that we do not have an exam. Quizzes will typically be given at the end of the week and regard the most recent material covered in class. Quizzes will be given in 35 minutes. You must be present to take the quiz during the time it is given. **Make-ups for quizzes will not be given. Do not ask.** Your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your grade to account for planned and unplanned absences. All quizzes combined are worth 20% of your grade.

**Exams:** We will have 3 exams during the quarter and a final exam at the end of the quarter. The 3 exams will each cover roughly 2 weeks of the most recent material. Exams will take 55 minutes. Exams must be taken in class on the date given unless arranged in advance for necessary absence (see Late Work and Make-ups). The three exams together are worth 45% of your grade. My tentative dates for the exams are January 22nd, February 12th, March 4th.

**Final Exam:** The final will be held on Wednesday March 16th 8:00-10:00 AM in our regular classroom. The final will be two hours long, the material will be comprehensive, and is worth 25% of your grade.

**Late work and Make-ups:** No late homework will be accepted. Early homework is welcome. In-class quizzes must be taken on the dates they are given. No make-ups will be given for quizzes (but one quiz will be dropped: see Quizzes). Make-ups for exams are not given without good reason (including but not limited to severe illness and work/military requirements). If you need to make-up an exam missed due to medical emergency I require

a Doctor's note. In the event of unavoidable work scheduling conflict a note and contact information for your supervisor will be required in advance.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating will result in failure of the course and may have a larger impact on your standing with the university. Cheating includes copying work, hinting, helping, and using notes/book (when not instructed to do so) on an in-class quiz or exam.

**Important Dates:**

January 5 First day of classes.

January 11 Add/Drop classes.

January 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No classes.

January 22 FIRST EXAM

February 12 SECOND EXAM

February 15 President's Day. No classes.

March 4 THIRD EXAM

March 11 Last day of classes.

March 16 FINAL EXAM

**Other:** Participation is not graded, but it is essential for your learning! I will often ask for your input in class. I may ask for students to "give me the next step" or even present a full solution at the board. Questions are also welcome when not requested. The more input I have from you, the better I can facilitate your learning needs.

Math requires lots of practice. Plan to spend a 1-2 hours outside of class for every hour in class. Reading your notes and text will only get you so far. The deepest understanding comes from working through many examples and internalizing the concepts.

**Resources:**

1. YOUR INSTRUCTOR: I'm available for additional help several days a week during my office hours. During office hours I can help you review material, work on practice problems, answer questions related to homework, etc. If you have questions, you don't need to wait for my office hours to ask: you're welcome to e-mail me.

2. YOUR TEXT: The majority of the material in this class is based on the text. I recommend you keep up with the material in the book as we cover it in class. The text also has practice problems and will make a decent study guide.

3. YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS: Again, math is a collaborative effort. Form study groups, work through homework, share notes, etc. Borrow understanding from others and share your understanding with them.