

Math 153: Precalculus I
Meets Daily 10:00- 10:50
Instructor: Dr. Steve Stein
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Office hours: M-Th 1:00

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 5 - 10 hours per week besides class time to be successful (some may need more, some less....) You choose to succeed or not largely by how you choose to spend time and energy. You will have a homework assignment about two out of every three days in this course and you should anticipate the assignments taking between one and two hours.

Expectations:

Uni-tasking! The (lost) art of doing one thing at a time, focusing, and doing it well. Turn off your phones, ipods, ipads, cortical implants, etc. during class... She will still love you in 50 minutes. The candy will still need to be crushed. Some people will still call him Maurice. Your friends will still have “words” with you [Symbol]. If you are here, be truly here.

Attendance, participation, homework. You have to show up, do your work, ask meaningful questions, and get help as needed to succeed. If you must be gone, you are responsible to access my website for information, and keep up with the work.

Respect others (real or simulated respect) – me, classmates, the school, etc. Honesty is an absolutely essential part of that.

Materials:

- A graphing calculator is required. Smart phone apps will not do, as you can't use a phone during quizzes and tests (for what I hope are 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.
- 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. The physical text is only for reference this quarter, but may be required for Math 154 if you go on.

- MyMathLab—all homework and review tests are completed on MML. Due dates are shown on MML for all assignments

Grading:

- 20% Final Exam
 - 20% Unit Tests
 - 10% Other (attendance, participation, quizzes...)
 - 25% MML Test Reviews
 - 25% Homework
-Column Break.....

90% - 100% = A

80% - 90% = B

70% - 80% = C

60% - 70% = D

+ and – grades apply if your score is within 2%.

Homework is assigned almost every day, and needs to be done that day. Attendance and participation are essential, and practicing the skills and concepts promptly is the only way to be confident of success. This will be done mostly through mymathlab.com. The website gives you immediate feedback, multiple opportunities to get credit for and/or redo a problem, and many tutorial aids and study helps. There will also be paper assignments, with specified due dates.

Review Tests will be completed on MML. Similar to homework on MML, you will be given multiple opportunities to complete the tests and there is no time limit. However, where the homework allows you to attempt a single problem multiple times, the entire test must be retaken. You will find the inclass tests to be very similar to the review tests.

Chapter tests and the final exam must be taken on the days assigned; I will do my best to inform you as soon as possible of changes to the dates of tests. Other times will be arranged only for the direst of circumstances (family funeral is valid if it is your own [Symbol]).

Late work: Each mymathlab assignment is to be done on the day it is assigned. Extensions will be granted when requested in advance—please do not ask for an extension after the fact. I will do my best to work with you in advance.

Cheating = Failure. You are allowed help always on homework (“Help” and “copying” are two different things!!) Tests, quizzes, and the final exam are **individual** efforts. You will receive a zero with no chance for make up if you copy, help, hint, check, “access extra resources” etc.

Absences will harm your grade in a number of ways

1. You won’t get the best opportunity to learn new concepts & skills, or new applications

2. You will miss quizzes – make-ups count against your 3 make up/retake opportunities.
3. *Occasionally* there may be extra credit available only to those who make it to class.

Extra Help: Do not hesitate to come see me at my office. Frustrations often relate to prior skills you may not realize you are missing. I can help identify and correct those issues. My office hours are listed on the front of this page, and I'm available other times by arrangement. We may have math education students who are available for individual or small group tutoring – see me. Also, the University Math Center, located in ARC on the first floor of Brooks library has very generous drop in tutoring hours, and there are “PALS” course-specific weekly study sessions available with a tutor at times TBA. Kahn academy has an organized collection of over 2,400 tutorial videos, with special emphasis on math. (www.khanacademy.org)

Accommodations: If you have a disability and require accommodations for this course please speak with me privately as soon as possible so that your needs may be appropriately met. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with Disability Services (DS). DS is located in Bouillon 140. Call (509) 963-2149 or email cds@cwu.edu for more information.