Math 126–Precalculus I  
TTh 230-345pm

Instructor: Scott Morrison  
Office: Bris 350K  Phone: 445-3299  
Email: smorriso@wnc.edu

Office Hours: MW 12-1pm, TTH 345-510pm, or by appointment.  

A Graphing Calculator is required. TI-83, 84, 85, 86, or 89 is recommended.

Course Description
Math 126 transfers to both UNR and UNLV as Math 126. This is a third course in algebra. Topics include polynomial, rational and radical equations; absolute value and quadratic inequalities; relations and functions; linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential and logarithmic functions, their graphs and applications; systems of equations.

Linkage to Educational Program Mission and Outcomes
This course addresses the fourth bullet under goal 1 in the college mission, "Provide instruction that contributes to a student's...abilities to...think critically and solve problems; to reason mathematically and apply computational skills.”

Math 126 addresses the following degree specific student learning outcomes
- apply mathematical and analytical problem-solving skills.
- succeed at their transfer institutions.
- comprehend and apply college level mathematics.

Math 126 satisfies the general education requirement for any degree or certificate and addresses the mission of and the following student learning outcomes of General Education:
- demonstrate knowledge of appropriate critical thinking skills.
- use appropriate mathematical skill.
- use appropriate problem solving skills.
- use appropriate principles of reasoning and decision-making.

Attendance
This class meets 2 times per week, from January 26th to May 20th. You are expected to attend each class meeting. If you miss a class I will expect to hear from you before the next class meeting—it is very important you don’t get behind in this material. You are responsible for getting work turned in on time whether or not you attend class.

Daily Assignments
A collection of exercises will be assigned during each class, and your solutions will be due during the following class meeting. A cover sheet with section numbers, exercise numbers, and your answers is required, and your clearly written solutions should be attached. Homework will be graded on clarity and correctness, so be sure your final version is organized and legible. Late homework will earn zero points. Your homework average will count as 40% of your overall grade.

Exams
There will be four exams including the final. Missed exams may not be made up. If you must miss an exam, let me know as early as you can before the exam is given, so we can make other arrangements. Your exam average will count as 60% of your overall grade.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct
Student conduct shall conform to the standards of conduct set forth in the Western Nevada College 2009-2010 Catalog. Cheating in any form or manner will result in an automatic semester grade of “F” for this course.

Grading
A  90—100%
B  80—90%
C  70—80%
D  60—70%
F  0—60%
Approximate Schedule of Material
Math 126 Spring 2010. Changes are likely—it is your responsibility to stay informed.

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Disability Statement
WNC supports providing equal access for students with disabilities. Susan Trist (DSS coordinator) is available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that students may require. Please either meet with me or contact Susan (445-3275) at your earliest convenience.

Classroom Guidelines
Treat your classmates and your instructor with respect. Sidebar conversations are not appropriate during lectures. Phones and music devices should not be used at all during class. During lecture you are encouraged to ask questions related to the immediate material; questions not directly related should be held until an appropriate time. If your class meets in a computer lab, computers should be used only for purposes specific to the course material. You are part of a community of learners, and a distraction to one quickly becomes a distraction to all.

Free Tutoring
The Academic Skills center provides free tutoring in BRIS 330. To receive free drop-in tutoring, you must be a WNC student enrolled in the class for which you request a tutor. To register for tutoring, drop by the ASC, fill out a student information form, and obtain an access code from the ASC receptionist.

Email Contact
As a WNC student, it is your responsibility to ensure your email is properly registered with the college. In certain instances like class cancellation or schedule change, I will use the online roster to email the class.
How to Use a Math Book
Read the material before attending lecture. Bring your book to class since we will refer to exercises during the lecture. Make notes of the section and topic being covered during a lecture. Read and understand the objectives of the section before attempting to work any of the exercises. Use the examples in each section to guide you through homework exercises. Practice odd numbered problems, and check answers in the B.O.B.

How to Complete a Homework Assignment
Open your book to the first page of the appropriate section—read the section title and objectives. Locate your lecture notes which relate to this section so that you have examples close at hand. Review the first few lecture examples in your notes before you begin solving problems from the book. Attempt a similar odd-numbered exercise first, and check your answer. As you begin to solve the exercises you may need to erase or rewrite—corrections like this should not be included in the work you turn in. After completing a solution, rewrite it clearly on a clean sheet of paper. Then move on to the next exercise. Your final draft of your homework should be neat, clear, and well organized.

How to Study for a Math Test
Make a list of the topics the exam will cover—if you’re not sure, ask your instructor. Find example problems from homework, quizzes, or review sheets, and use these to create a short, mock-test. Give yourself a predetermined amount of time to finish this mock-test with no help. Note the problems that you had trouble with, and check off the ones you understood. The more practice you have in simulated testing situations the better you’ll do on the exam. Ask your instructor for more practice problems, and start over.

How Succeed in College
Show up to class. Make to-do lists. Talk with your instructor. Check your grade often. Ask lots of questions. Communicate. Do not give up.