

WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE
ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA - MATH 95 MW
FALL 2010

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: MATH 93

Transfer Status: Does not transfer

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a first course in algebra. Topics include operations with signed numbers; algebraic symbols; evaluating formulas; operations with polynomial, radical and rational expressions; solving equations and application problems using algebra; and elementary graphing. This course provides a foundation for the math used in business, science, engineering and related fields.

II. Course Objectives: *Gain factual knowledge and learn fundamental principles, and theories relating to: algebraic and exponential expressions, polynomials, factoring, linear equations and their graphs, radical expressions, radical and quadratic equations. Students will learn to generalize and apply these concepts by solving application (word) problems.*

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to do the following:

1. work with signed numbers.
2. read, write and simplify algebraic expressions.
3. add, subtract, multiply and divide polynomial, radical and rational expressions.
4. solve linear equations.
5. solve quadratic equations by factoring.
6. graph linear functions.
7. solve applied problems.

TEXT: *Introductory Algebra, 3rd edition; Elayn Martin-Gay*

INSTRUCTOR: Jean McNeil **e-mail:** mcneil@wnc.edu

OFFICE: 222 Aspen

PHONE: 445-4275

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.; 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.; Thursday 12:15 – 1:15 **Other times by appointment**

Canceled Class Hotline: 1-866-532-5118 or www.wnc.edu

Take advantage of my office hours. If you can't get to campus to in person then call or email (Office hours may change during the semester).

COURSE MECHANICS

ATTENDANCE: Students **WITH** more than **THREE** UNEXCUSED ABSENCES may receive an F. You must **let me know why** you are not in class. Poor attendance = Poor grade.

- ❖ I have found that students who **do not attend** class regularly usually end up dropping the class or failing.
- ❖ Playing “Catch up” is not a successful learning strategy.
- ❖ Missing one class in math is like missing 3 classes. You don’t understand the material you missed. You won’t understand the material in the lecture following your absence (it will be based on the previous material.) Even if you get help you will be working on the material from the previous 2 lectures during the 3rd so the new material may not make sense.
- ❖ I understand that you all have a life outside of class. However, in my experience **missing class is the kiss of death**. If you have to work to go to school but your job interferes to the point that you fail or drop out... you will have wasted your money and time.
- ❖ **If you must miss a class, arrange to get the notes from another student.** You **must** get the name and phone number (or email address) for another student in class. Call them the day you miss class to find out what we covered in class and the homework assignment. Arrange to get notes before the next class if possible. **Do not call or email me** for the assignment and details for what happened in class. Your colleagues are your best source of information.

PARTICIPATION: You will learn more if you are an active learner in class. I can present the material → only you can learn it. It is very helpful to have read the sections to be discussed prior to class. Pay special attention to examples. Work some of the practice problems. This will make the lecture more meaningful. Answering questions and helping work problems together in class will also help you learn the material.

HOMEWORK: Homework assignments are important; math is not a spectator sport. Approximately 39% of your grade comes from homework point (Total points = 10 x number of assignments, e.g. 10 x 22 = 220). Completing your homework in a timely fashion is a key to success. However, this is not true if you turn in JUNK- just to turn it in. If you are having trouble with an assignment you are better off getting help and turning it in late. Do not turn in incomplete assignments. They will receive a 0.

I will spend approximately 10 minutes at the beginning of class answering questions you have about the homework problems you are turning in that day. So come prepared with page and problem numbers so you are ready to ask your questions.

- ❖ There will be approximately **22** homework assignments. Homework, selected problems from the sections covered in lecture, will demonstrate your mastery of the material. For some assignments I will ask you to go to www.interactmath.com to work your homework. You will then submit a print out of your results.
- ❖ Each homework assignment is worth a maximum of 10 points.
- ❖ Your homework score is based on the number of correct problems out of the number of problems assigned. E.g. 17 correct out of 23 is worth 7 points. 10, 9 points = A; 8 points = B; 7 points = C, etc.
- ❖ Assignments are due **before class** the following class period, e.g. problems assigned on Monday are due before class starts on Wednesday. Assignments turned in after that time will be marked **late**.
- ❖ You must **show work for credit** on homework assignments.
- ❖ **Work odd problems and check your solutions in the back of the book to master the material.** Answers to odd problems start on page A1. Solutions to selected odd problems start on page A27. It is a good idea to work odd problems before you attempt the assigned problems
- ❖ **Homework Format:** Homework assignments must follow the required format. If the work is not formatted correctly it will be handed back and will be considered late. 1) The homework assignment will usually come from 2 sections. All problems from both sections must be turned in together in one package. Put pages in numerical order. E.g. section 1.2 on top of 1.3. 2) Use logic in placing your problems on the page. In English we organize work from the left – right and top to bottom. Do not place problems where ever you can squeeze them on the page. 3) block out work as shown in class. Leave space around the problem. Show work and the resulting answer together. **Answers should be enclosed in a circle or rectangle.** 4) Fold homework in half length- wise. Label the upper area of the folded package with your name and the sections covered by the assignment. **Problem sets must be turned in on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper and must be legible.**

❖ **Students auditing the class are required to complete all homework assignments.**

LATE WORK: Homework assignments are due **before** class the following class period, e.g. problems assigned on Monday are due **before** class starts on Wednesday. Assignments turned in after that time will be marked late. If you miss class your homework is still late.

I will accept late work until the day of the midterm covering that material. For example, if material from the first 6 assignments is covered by Exam I these assignments are to be turned in by the day of that exam. **They will not be accepted after that date.** Late work will be docked one point. **Exams may not be taken late (or early).**

TUTORING: Free tutoring is available in Bris 330. You can check available times by going to <http://www.wnc.edu/studentservices/asc/> or stopping by the Academic Skills Center (ASC). The tutor is there if you need help mastering the material covered in class. It is **not** the tutor's job to provide a private lecture if you miss class. It is also **not** their job to do your homework ~ or even to check it. **There is an online tutorial at www.interactmath.com**

MENTORING: We have 4 mentors (Becki, Brenda, Carol and Micheele) to help developmental math students. These individuals can help you with math or any other problems that might arise. I will make an exception to the no make up test policy if you work with one of the mentors for 3 hours.

CDs: If you need help with the material covered in class or if you miss a lecture, you can watch the videos that accompany your text. I have a copy in my office that I can lend you.

CALCULATORS: **I require you to purchase a scientific calculator.** These are often on sale for \$15 or less. I hear you can also find them at the dollar store. Bring your calculator to class each time and be ready to use it. I encourage you to use a calculator for homework. Calculators will be allowed on exams. However, I do encourage you to practice your math skills by working some problems with pencil and paper then checking with the calculator. Calculators are great tools but also are a crutch.

EXAMS: **Approximately 61% of your grade.** There will be three midterm exams (worth 100 points each) and a comprehensive final exam (worth 150 points). I will drop the lowest midterm score so the final grade will be based on 2 midterm scores and the comprehensive final score. **MAKE-UP EXAM IS NOT IN MY VOCABULARY. If you miss a MIDTERM EXAM, that score will be the score dropped.** Every one **must take** the FINAL exam to pass the class. *The Final must be taken on*

15 December 2010. Note: plan to ace the first midterm...the others are more challenging.

TIME COMMITMENT: Plan on spending 3 hours out side of class for every credit hour earned. So, for this 3 credit class plan on spending 9 hours in addition to the time you spend attending class.

FINAL GRADES: Grades are based on homework and exam scores. **You must take 2 midterms and the final for a passing grade.** I will sum up the points you earned to determine your final grade. Your point total/total points possible X 100% = your grade for the semester. Grades are as follows: 90% and above **A**, 80% - 89% **B**, 70% - 79% **C**, 60% - 69% **D**, below 60% **F**. **I** is given at the instructor's discretion (but only in the case of an emergency). *A student must have completed 75% of the material with a grade of C or better to be eligible for an incomplete.* **Students must formally withdraw (using Webreg) by 10 December 2010 to receive a W.** You can access your final grade using Webreg; grades are usually posted by 22 December 2010.

REVIEW OF CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- ❖ **CELL PHONE & PAGERS:** Are to be turned off prior to class. For the length of class you need to focus on math...not who is calling or texting you.
- ❖ **ATTENDANCE:** You have no more than 3 unexcused absences. Please contact me with questions or concerns related to attendance.
- ❖ **LATE WORK:** You will loose roughly 10% for a late assignment, e.g. if you earned a 10 (100%) you would be given a 9 (90%).
- ❖ **MAKE-UP TESTS:** Mid-term exams must be taken on the scheduled day. They may not be taken early or late. The final must be taken on the scheduled day.
- ❖ **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Honesty is the best policy. Getting help is a great idea. Copying someone else's homework is cheating. Not only is it dishonest...it does not help you learn the material. Cheating on exams will be considered an automatic 0 for that test.
- ❖ **RESPECT:** Treat everyone with respect and courtesy (that means me and your colleagues). See WNC's "Principles of Community" p. 3, 2006-2007 Catalog for more details. Also, make sure to read WNC's "Student Code of Conduct" to learn your rights and responsibilities.
- ❖ **YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK FOR HELP:** Remember. If you have any questions on any aspect of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can send me an email at mcneil@wnc.edu or call me at 445-4275.

Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or contact the Disability support coordinator (Bristlecone building, room 103), as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Proposed Schedule

WEEK	DATE	SECTIONS
1	30-Aug 1-Sep	1.2/1.3 1.4/1.5
2	6-Sep 8-Sep	Labor Day 1.6/1.7
3	13-Sep 15-Sep	1.8/2.1 2.2/2.3
4	20-Sep 22-Sep	2.4/2.5 3.1/3.2
5	27-Sep 29-Sep	3.3/3.4 Review
6	4-Oct 6-Oct	Exam 1 (1.2 - 3.4) 3.5/3.6
7	11-Oct 13-Oct	3.7/4.1 4.2
8	18-Oct 20-Oct	4.3 4.5/4.6
9	25-Oct 27-Oct	4.7/5.1 5.2/5.3
10	1-Nov 3-Nov	Review Exam 2 (3.5 - 5.3)
11	8-Nov 10-Nov	5.4/5.5 5.6/6.1
12	15-Nov 17-Nov	6.2/6.3 8.1/8.2
13	22-Nov 24-Nov	8.3/8.4 Instructional Holiday
14	29-Nov 1-Dec	9.1 Dimensional Analysis

15	6-Dec 8-Dec	Review Exam 3
16	13-Dec 15-Dec	Final Review Comprehensive Final