

Lake Tahoe Community College
Math 152A – Basic Algebra (Part I)
Spring 2012 – Section 4

Instructor: Katie Larkin
Email: piontheside@gmail.com
Time: T/Th 10:00 –11:50am
Room: A213

COURSE CONTENT

This course will study the basic concepts of algebra. Topics include the real numbers their properties, solving linear equations and inequalities, the four basic operations with polynomials, graphing linear functions and inequalities in two variables, properties of exponents and introduction to functions.

MATERIALS

Required: MyMathLab Access Code. This code can either be purchased online or in the bookstore. The access code comes with complete online access to the textbook as well as other study guides.

Optional: Textbook – Beginning and Intermediate Algebra, 4th ed., by Martin-Gay.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

1. Solve linear equations and inequalities.
2. Define and employ terminology and arithmetic relating to polynomials in one variable.
3. Determine the equation and graph a line given information about the line.
4. Manipulate expressions with integral exponents.
5. Apply course topics to real-world situations.

COURSE WORK

- **Attendance (5%):** Attendance will be taken at the start of class. You will get 2 points for arriving on time and leaving when the class is dismissed. If you're late or leave early, you will receive 1 point and if you are absent you will receive 0.
- **Homework (20%):** All homework will be assigned and completed in MyMathLab. You may attempt each question as many times as necessary. All homework is due each Sunday by midnight. No late assignments will be accepted for course credit. There are duplicate versions of each homework assignment that will never close. You can attempt problems after the due date and your work will not affect your grade. It is meant to serve as a study and review aid throughout the quarter.
- **Quizzes/In Class Assignments (15%):** Quizzes will be completed in class. Quizzes will not always be announced and no make-ups will be given unless arrangements have been made with me PRIOR to the day the quiz is given. No late assignments will be accepted for course credit. The lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the quarter. NO CALCULATORS MAY BE USED.
- **Midterms (45%):** Three midterm exams, each worth 15% of your final grade, will be given in class. If a student has a conflict, they must notify me BEFORE the day of the exam so that an alternative date can be made. ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN without a valid excuse submitted to me PRIOR to exam day. NO CALCULATORS MAY BE USED.
- **Cumulative Final Exam (15%):** The MANDATORY final exam will be given on Tuesday, June 19th from 11:00a-12:50p. No make-ups will be given. NO CALCULATORS MAY BE USED.

All exams and assignments will be graded on the following straight scale:

A: 90 - 100%, B: 80 – 89%, C: 70 - 79%, D: 60 - 69%, F: Below 60%

Note: If you take the course P/NP, keep in mind that a C or above is passing (P).

MyMathLab

Access online homework via MyMathLab (www.coursecompass.com). The Course ID is **larkin86713**. More detailed description of this site to be given in class.

COMPUTERS

Computers are available for your use in the following locations on campus:

- Writing Across the Curriculum Center (Rm. 201): Mon – Th 9 – 6, Fri 11 – 2, Sat 11 – 3.
- Math Success Center (MSC) (Rm. 201): Mon – Th 9 – 6, Fri 10 – 2, Sat 11 – 1.
- Open Labs in the D-wing which have available times posted by the door of each lab.

CLASSROOM RULES

Cell phones and any other “noise-makers” (ipods, mp3 players, etc.) must be turned OFF (not on vibrate, OFF) before entering the classroom and must remain stowed for the entire lecture. Disruptive activity during class will not be tolerated. While I am lecturing or other classmates are asking questions, you should not be talking. If you are consistently disruptive during class, you will be suspended from the class for up to 2 days.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

- **Keep up with the work!** Math is a difficult subject; it is **imperative** that you keep up with the work in this class! Pay attention to the schedule and don’t miss assignments.
- **Come to class prepared!** Before each class you should read the appropriate material (see schedule). You should also be sure to review previous lectures and bring any homework questions to class.
- **Make use of the Math Success Center!** I do not have office hours, therefore it is imperative that you get the most out of my lectures and go to the Math Success Center if you're having any trouble at all and need some assistance. The Math Success Center, staffed with knowledgeable tutors, is located in room 201 and is open from M-TH from 9-6, FRI 10-2, and SAT 11-1. There are also computers available for use there.
- **Form study groups!** They can be a great source of help! You can work together on homework assignments, but you need to submit the answer you believe is correct.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Apr 13:** Last day to drop with a full refund
- **Apr 27:** Last day to drop with no record or declare P/NP
- **May 18:** Last day to drop with a ‘W’
- **June 19:** Final Exam 11-12:50

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a certified learning disability that may affect your performance in this class, be sure to discuss your special needs with me during the first week of class. Learning disabilities will be accommodated.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating will be defined as but not limited to: (1) using any method to copy another’s work on an exam or final (2) directly copying another student’s homework assignment (3) using any method other than your own honest efforts to complete exams or the final.

The following activities are NOT cheating: (1) collaborating with other students to complete homework assignments (2) working with math tutors or academic coaches to complete homework assignments (3) working with other students to study for exams or the final.

Disciplinary actions for cheating in this class: Cheating will result in a grade of zero on the item on which the cheating occurred. The worst thing about cheating, however, is compromising your character for such a small reward.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Math 152A – Spring 2012 – Larkin		
Week	Topics Covered	Section in Text
Week 1	Symbols and Sets of Numbers; Fractions; Intro to Variable Expressions and Equations; Adding Real Numbers	1.2 - 1.5
Week 2	Subtracting Real Numbers; Multiplying & Dividing Real Numbers; Properties of Real Numbers; Simplifying Algebraic Equations	1.6 - 1.8, 2.1
Week 3	The Addition and Multiplication Properties of Equality; Solving Linear Equations; An Intro to Problem Solving	2.2 - 2.4
Week 4	Formulas and Problem Solving; Percent and Mixture Problem Solving; Further Problem Solving; Solving Linear Inequalities	2.5 - 2.8
Week 5	Exam 1 (Ch 1 & 2) - Tuesday, 5/1/12 Reading Graphs & the Rectangular Coordinate System; Graphing Linear Equations; Intercepts	3.1 - 3.3
Week 6	Slope and Rate of Change; Equations of Lines	3.4 - 3.5
Week 7	Graphing Linear Inequalities in Two Variables; Functions	9.4, 3.6
Week 8	Exam 2 (3.1 - 3.6, 9.4) - Tuesday, 5/22/12 Exponents; Polynomials	5.1 - 5.2
Week 9	Multiplying Polynomials; Special Products	5.3 - 5.4
Week 10	Negative Exponents and Scientific Notation; Division of Polynomials	5.5 - 5.6
Week 11	Exam 3 (5.1 - 5.6) - Tuesday, 6/12/12 Compound Inequalities; Absolute Value Equations	9.1 - 9.2
Week 12	Cumulative Final Exam - Tuesday, 6/19/12 - 11:00a-12:50p	

Note: Schedule may change slightly over the course of the semester.