

Math 1050 Section 6

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This College Algebra class is similar to your life. You were born at some point in time; you spend your life's days learning; experiencing success and failure, joy and sorrow, happiness and tragedy, acceptance and rejection, health and sickness, confidence and doubt, friendship and betrayal. Then you die! In short life isn't easy. It wasn't meant to be! Math 1050 parallels this outline. You are born into this class on January 6, 2014. You die from this class on April 28, 2014. Your final judgment (exam) comes on April 29, 2014 at 9:30 AM. The 59 days between birth and death will be spent preparing you for the final exam. The actual 114 days between your math 1050 birth and death you should spend reading the text, trying to solve algebra problems, asking questions about algebra concepts to me and to your classmates, attending every class, spending some time each day focused on succeeding in this class. Math 1050 is not meant to take over your life but it does require you to spend some time each day working on its objectives. The minimum time requirement is at least two hours of study outside of class for each hour spent in class. That means you should spend at least eight hours a week focused on the concepts of College Algebra. The semester requirement is at least 118 hours. If you are taking 16 credit hours this semester you should plan on spending at least thirty two hours per week studying for your classes. Taken together you should be spending 48 hours (or two full days) studying! Welcome to college! Just like life, gaining an education is not easy! A by product of a college education is learning to manage your time carefully.

Well, now that you are worried about what you have gotten yourself into lets look at what it takes to succeed in this class. Success for most students means achieving an A or B grade. So, how do I calculate a grade? There are eight quantities that I use to calculate a grade.

Final Exam	15 %	Chapter Exams	15%	Objective Mastery	20%
Assessments	15%	Completed Assignments	15%	Quizzes	5%
		Class participation	10%	Help Sessions	5%

The grade scale is: 90-100% A's 80-89 % B's 68-79 % C's 56-67 % D's
0-55 % F's

Let's take a look at each quantity:

FINAL EXAM: The semester will be spent preparing for exam. What you learn each day will determine your preparation for the final. Each day is important so plan to attend class prepared to discuss what you have read from the text, what problems you have tried, questions you have about the reading material and/or any difficulties you have with problems, objectives, assignments and the like. No early finals will be given so plan on taking the final exam on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 9:30 AM in our regular classroom.

CHAPTER EXAMS: There will be an exam given for each chapter we study, a total of nine in all. The dates for each exam are given on my web page and on your ALEKS calendars. You need to notify me at least 2 days in advance of an exam if you need to be excused plus you need to have a good reason to be excused. If you miss an exam without notifying me before hand means you get a zero score for that exam. My office, home, and cell phone numbers are given on my web page and at the top of this article.

OBJECTIVE MASTERY: The course syllabus gives you the chapter and the objectives in that chapter that you need to master. There will be as many as eight objectives for you to master each day. There are 378 objectives to master during the semester. It is imperative that you work on them each day. The course calendar gives you daily goals for objectives to be mastered. Stay on top of them; don't let them get on top of you. Like an avalanche they will bury you if you get behind.

ASSESSMENTS: After twenty hours of computer work or 10 objectives mastered, the computer will give you an assessment to check on your mastery and retention of material. The assessment will give you problems to do in areas that you are weak in mastering. Periodically, I will give the class an assessment so that I can see first hand how you are doing with the objectives.

COMPLETED ASSIGNMENTS: At various time I will give you an assignment to complete using the computer. These assignments will have problems testing your retention of objectives mastered.

QUIZZES: These will be given at random times and also when a large part of the class is absent. Basically they will be a check on your daily attendance.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: I expect you to be in class prepared for the day's discussion. By prepared I mean you have read the section in the text that will be discussed, have tried to do some of the objective problems, and are ready to ask questions about concepts that you read about but didn't understand and problems you had difficulty with. You will be focused on math for the entire class period so please turn off your cell phones and put them away. I will ask you to leave class if you don't. I and your fellow classmates can explain concepts to you but we can't understand them for you. Only you can do that. That is why I think reading, mastering objectives and attending class is so important. It is actively doing these things that will bring you to an understanding of college algebra.

HELP SESSIONS: This is the only class that I have to teach this semester so I have ample time to meet individually or with groups to further explain concepts and help you with problem solutions. You can make appointments with me before and after class, by email, or by telephone. I am looking forward to these help sessions because they help me learn about you and how you learn. Don't be afraid to ask for help, I am eager to help you. I want everyone to have a good experience in this class and to successfully pass it.

Well, there are the elements I use to calculate a grade for you. You probably noticed that there was no mention of extra credit. That is because there is none! Let me explain. Typically "extra credit" is asked about after a low exam score or near the end of the semester when it becomes apparent that your grade is not satisfactory. "Professor, can I do some extra credit to raise my grade (because I didn't do well on exams and objectives or I didn't take the exams or do the work on the objectives)?" The part in the parentheses usually isn't mentioned. My interpretation of "extra credit" is that you have passed your exams and finished all your work and are so excited about what you have learned that you want to go deeper into the study of mathematics. I have yet to find this to be the case! I offer instead this advice from the book of "Hard Experiences of Student Learning".

"Behold, this semester is the time for students to prepare of the final; yea, this day of the semester is the day for students to perform their labors. And now as you have fifty-nine days to prepare, I beseech of you that you do not procrastinate the day of your study until the end of the semester, for after this day of the semester which is yours to study and prepare for the final, behold, if you do not use your days in this semester to study, then cometh the end of the semester wherein no labor can be performed. Ye cannot say when you come to that awful crisis; I will study, that I will pass the final. Nay, ye cannot do this; for the same study habits you possess during the each day of the semester you will have at the time of the final. For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your study even to the last day of the semester, behold, you have become subjected to the spirit of failure, and the spirit of failure doth seal you his; therefore, the help of the teacher has withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and failure hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the un-studious. Therefore, go and do the things that the teacher asks you to do, for the teacher giveth no assignment unto the students of his class, save he shall prepare a way for them to succeed, that they may accomplish passing Math 1050.

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Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring accommodations or services under ADA must contact the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC). The ARC determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of these accommodations and services for the college.

For assistance, please contact the Accessibility Services Coordinator:

Address: Snow College, 241 Greenwood Student Center, 150 East College Avenue,
Ephraim, UT 84627.

Phone: (435) 283-7321

Fax: (435) 283-7314

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Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests or other course work, collusion (this includes telling others about problems on an exam), falsifying, and plagiarism. Evidence of, or strong suspicion of, academic dishonesty will result in a 0 for the test / work and possibly a failing grade for the course. Suspension may also be pursued.