MATH 90H: ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA
Fall 2008

Instructor: Carol Avery (you may address me as Mrs. Avery, Ms. Avery, or Carol)
Office: Bldg. 20, Room 6
Office Hours: M-F 11:30-12:20 (or by appointment). Please make use of my office hours if you have any questions or need extra help with the course material.
Phone: 253.460.4429
e-mail: caverry@tacomacc.edu (I will make every effort to respond to email messages within a day of receiving them.)

Description & Objective: This is the second of three algebra classes taught at TCC: some previous knowledge of algebra is required. After successfully completing this course, the student will be prepared to continue with the study of algebra, specifically Math 97, Math 99, or TMath 100, which are the prerequisites for college level math courses offered at TCC.

Learning Objectives: The abbreviation following each objective refers to the College-Wide Learning Outcomes: COM=Communication; CRT=Critical Thinking; IIT=Information and Information Technology; RSP=Responsibility; LWC= Living and Working Cooperatively. Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the concepts of lines and linear equations from a symbolic and graphical viewpoint. Graph lines from equations and determine equations from graphs or points. (CRT)
2. Understand the concept of slope both graphically and symbolically. Find slopes given graphs or equations or data points. (CRT)
3. Add, subtract, multiply and divide polynomials.
4. Understand and perform operations with exponents, including negative exponents. Perform operations using scientific notation with and without a calculator. (IIT)
5. Factor quadratic, cubic, and other polynomials.
7. Perform operations with and solve equations involving rational expressions.
8. Understand systems of 2 equations in 2 unknowns and solve them graphically and algebraically. (CRT)
9. Set up algebraic models for application problems, and solve these problems. (CRT)
10. Produce clear and complete written solutions. (COM)
11. Use a scientific calculator appropriately. (IIT)

Prerequisite: You must have either tested into Math 90 via a TCC math assessment test, OR passed math 88 (Intro to Elementary Algebra) or its equivalent with a C- grade or better. You must ALSO HAVE assessed into Reading 93 or completed Reading 92 with a grade of C or better. If it should come to the attention of the instructors that you do not meet the prerequisite requirements, you will be administratively withdrawn from class. There are no exceptions

Required Materials for Class:

- Pencils with good erasers (mechanical pencils OK)
- 8 ½ X 11 notebook paper
- Graph paper (grid no smaller than 5 squares/inch)
- A SCIENTIFIC calculator (TI-30XIIS recommended)
- 3 x 5 index cards (at least 1 pack!)
- 3-ring binder (recommended)
- Small ruler or straight edge
Course Requirements: Grades will be based upon a number of factors, including homework, projects/writing assignments, test/quizzes, and attendance/participation. These areas are detailed as follows:

1. Homework/Attendance/Participation:
   PLAN TO SPEND AT LEAST 2 HOURS PER DAY ON HOMEWORK!
   Each homework assignment will be worth 3 points. Answers to all odd problems are in the back of your book, and you are expected to check your answers before turning homework in. For odd problems, I will scan your work to check that all problems are done; that you are showing all the work done to obtain an answer; and that you are working in a neat and organized manner. I am not as interested in your answer as in your process. You are responsible for re-working a problem until you get the correct answer, and taking advantage of various resources (see below) to help on problems you are unsure of. For even problems, process AND solution will be considered in earning points.
   Assignments are due on the date specified at the beginning of class. No late assignments will be accepted for any reason. You can miss up to 3 homework assignments without it affecting your grade. I do not accept assignments sent to my email address as attached documents.

   Attendance and Participation. You are expected to attend class every day, arriving on time and remaining until the end of the period. Repeated absences and/or failure to be in class for the entire period will be reflected in your grade. You will be expected to participate in class discussions and group activities, and you are encouraged to work with your classmates on homework. In addition, you may be required to spend time outside of class working with small groups and/or computer programs.

2. Projects/Writing Assignments/Quizzes
   One or more writing assignments, projects, or take-home quizzes may be assigned during the quarter. They may be for individual or group work. Points will be determined by the complexity of the assignment, and may range from 5 points to 50 points. With any assignment calling for writing, the clarity and accuracy of your writing is important: use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling is expected.

3. Exams
   You will have four 100-point, hour-long exams and one 150-point comprehensive final exam.

Grading: The grading of each individual assignment or test will be based on your ability to demonstrate your understanding of a given concept or skill. This can’t be done by just writing down the answer: all work and/or steps must be shown as well. Problems just showing the “right answer” with no back-up work will not receive full credit.

Your final grade will be based on the percentage of possible points obtained. Though the exact number of points will not be determined until the end of the quarter, it will be very close to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework/Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects/Writing Assignments/Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
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The percent-to-letter-grade scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94.5 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89.5 - 94.4</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.5 - 89.4</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.5 - 86.4</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79.5 - 84.4</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.5 - 79.4</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.5 - 76.4</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.5 - 74.4</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.5 - 71.4</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.5 - 69.4</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.5 - 66.4</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 64.4</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This grading scale may be altered at the instructor’s discretion, but will only be altered to the students’ advantage.

**Withdrawals/Incompletes/S,U,V Grades**: TCC policy states that anyone can drop a class on the college web site through the third day of the quarter. After that you need to fill out an add/drop form and submit it to Registration and Records. In general, if you are receiving a C grade or better at the time of your request, a WI grade will be given if you have completed 60% of the coursework for the quarter. Otherwise, a V grade will be given. If your grade is lower than a C, an E grade will be given (exceptions may be made, depending on the circumstances). *Students who simply stop coming to class will receive an E. After the 50th calendar day of the quarter, students no longer have the option to withdraw from a course.*

Incompletes will be given only in VERY RARE instances, which must be discussed with the instructor before the final exam. An “I” grade is reserved for students who have generally done well throughout the quarter but miss a small amount of work (say, the final) due to exceptional circumstances. S/U grade requests must be processed through the registration office and meet their deadlines.

**Classroom Policies:**

1) The first 5-10 minutes of every class will involve group work on the previous day’s homework. You will work with your classmates on problems that you were not able to solve on your own. The instructor will be available during this time to answer questions your classmates are not able to answer.

2) All cell phones and pagers must be turned off and put away during class time. Because ringing telephones are highly disruptive to both the instructor and the students, **you will lose 1 participation point for each time your cell phone rings in class OR you use it for calling or texting.** If you are expecting an urgent call or page, please talk with the instructor prior to class.

3) A successful student is one who gives his or her full attention to the class session. Therefore, no listening devices (other than hearing aides) will be allowed during class or during exams.

4) Beverages are allowed in class, but please save food for after class. No tobacco products will be allowed in class.

5) Children are not allowed in class.

6) Class will last the full 50 minutes. Do not start packing away your books until class is dismissed.

**Make-Up Work**: As stated earlier, no homework may be turned in late or made up. Make-up exams may be scheduled with prior approval in highly exceptional cases. If you are sick on the day of an exam, you must contact me via email or telephone before classtime.

**Course Calendar**: Dates of exams and homework assignments will be announced in class. We will not have class on the following dates: **November 5** (Educational Planning Day), **November 11** (Veteran’s Day Holiday), **November 26-28** (Thanksgiving Holiday).

**Cheating**: I encourage you to collaborate with others on homework, or on projects as specified, but you may NOT collaborate on exams. Cheating on an exam or project will result in zero points for the work. A second infraction will result in an E grade for the course. For more information, refer to the TCC...

*Classroom Concerns/Disputes.* If you have questions or concerns about this class or me, please come to talk with me about your concerns. If we are unable to resolve your concerns, you may talk next with the Chair of the Math Department, Valerie Morgan-Krick. She can assist with information about additional steps, if needed.

*Special Accommodations:* If you have a physical, mental, or learning disability that you feel may require some form of accommodation, you must 1) have your disability documented with the TCC Accessibility specialist (Counseling Center in Bldg 18), and 2) inform me of any necessary accommodations BEFORE they are needed. Documentation should occur within the first 2 weeks of class. Requests for accommodations without necessary documentation will generally be denied.

*Getting Help:* A number of resources are available if you need additional help. Please make use of my office hours, listed at the beginning of this syllabus. Help is also available at the Al Kwarizmi Math and Learning Center (MARC) in Bldg. 19-22. Software in the CAL lab in Bldg 7 can give you additional help and practice on particular types of problems. Videotapes of topics are available at the Media Center in the Library (Bldg 7). The Writing/Tutoring Center has tutors available to meet with you once or twice a week. Stop by Bldg. 7, Room 221 or call 253.566.6032 to make an appointment. Drop-in tutoring is also available on a first come, first served basis. If you know you are starting to get behind or feel lost, GET HELP!

*The information in this syllabus is subject to change.*
*Any changes may be made via class announcements.*