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M 090.01: Introductory Algebra

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M090 Introductory Algebra
Department of Applied Arts and Sciences
Spring 2015 Syllabus

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Text: *Elementary Algebra*, 3rd
Michael Sullivan III, Katherine R. Struve, and Janet Mazzarella
Available as an e-book through MyLabsPlus

Excellence is achieved by the mastery of fundamentals. ~Vince Lombardi

WELCOME TO INTRODUCTORY ALGEBRA! M090 is a one-semester mathematics course for students who have not yet mastered the first year of high school algebra, or for those who need a refresher course — particularly those students intending to take M095, Intermediate Algebra; M115, Probability and Linear Mathematics; M105, Contemporary Mathematics; or M104, Numbers as News. M090 does not substitute for any other mathematics requirement, nor does it fulfill the general education mathematics requirement.

PLACEMENT in M090 is based on your individual mathematics assessment (ALEKS Level 2) or completion of M065 (Prealgebra) with a grade of RC- or better; the “R” designation indicates that the course is remedial or developmental. Developmental courses’ credits do not count toward associate degrees or baccalaureate degrees, but the credits do count for financial aid, Four Bear progress, the tuition flat-spot, and toward full- or part-time status. All developmental course grades carry the “R” designation.

Be certain that you are enrolled in the proper math class at the beginning of the semester. You may not be able to switch into a more appropriate class after the first week. If you have any concerns about your placement see your instructor immediately.

WHY DO WE STUDY ALGEBRA? Algebra allows us to solve problems for unknown quantities, draw graphs of relationships between numbers, and make use of the inherent structure of our number system, but the larger and more important goal in this course is to learn abstract reasoning. This deeper thinking allows us to draw from our mental toolboxes to solve certain types of problems.

This course has been designed for you, the student. Your willing participation is essential if you plan to succeed in this course. If we can have a motivated, friendly, and enthusiastic class, we will be able to try new things and have a good time while we all learn together. This course is not supposed to be either tedious or competitive.

KEY TO SUCCESS: It is impossible to stress strongly enough how important it is for you to be diligent in your study habits. Pay attention and cultivate a positive attitude! No matter how you feel about studying math, personal responsibility and a solid work ethic are great attributes to be able to claim as your own. You are an important part of this class — you can make it lively and interesting or silent and boring. Develop a positive working relationship with your classmates and instructor. If you keep up with the work, the subject makes sense and the challenges are manageable. If you feel threatened by math, practice some of the techniques used to reduce math anxiety; there are links at the end of the syllabus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: M 090 - Introductory Algebra

Offered every term. Prereq., M 065 (M 002D) or ALEKS placement ≥ 2 . Review of arithmetic principles of integers and rational numbers, linear equations in one or two unknowns, systems of linear equations and operations with polynomials and rational expressions. Credit does not count toward an Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science, or Baccalaureate degree. (From https://webprocess.UMT.edu/cyberbear/bwckctlg.p_disp_course_detail?cat_term_in=201370&subj_code_in=M&crse_num_in=090)

LEARNING GOALS:

Upon completion of this course, a student will be able to:

- Perform arithmetic operations with real numbers;
- Simplify linear, exponential, and polynomial expressions;
- Set up and solve application problems using ratios and proportions;
- Solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable;
- Graph linear equations in two variables;
- Recognize and determine equations of lines.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Attendance is not part of your final grade in M090, but no one can teach you if you are not in class engaged and ready to learn. Focus! Come to class and come prepared. Do your homework regularly; don't fall behind. You will be more successful if you study every day rather than trying to cram. You cannot expect to succeed in this course if you miss several classes; important information may be shared at any time that may not be posted on MyLabsPlus.

University of Montana policy states:

*Students who are registered for a course but do not attend the first two class meetings may be required by the instructor to drop the course. This rule allows for early identification of class vacancies to permit other students to add classes. **Students not allowed to remain must complete a drop form or drop the course on the internet (<http://cyberbear.umt.edu>) to avoid receiving a failing grade.** Students who know they will be absent should contact the instructor in advance.*

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and complete all assignments for courses in which they are enrolled. Instructors may excuse brief and occasional absences for reasons of illness, injury, family emergency, or participation in a University sponsored activity. (University sponsored activities include for example, field trips, ASUM service, music or drama performances, and intercollegiate athletics.) Instructors shall excuse absences for reasons of military service or mandatory public service.

CALCULATOR: A graphing calculator is required for M090; the Department of Applied Arts and Sciences recommends and uses Texas Instruments models TI-83 or TI-84 (regular or plus editions). Calculators with symbolic manipulation capabilities (e. g. TI-89, TI-92) will not be allowed in testing situations.

MYLABSPLUS (MLP): MyLabsPlus is an innovative way for you to do homework and take quizzes with immediate feedback. Every section of the M090 text covered in class has a corresponding assignment in MyLabsPlus. Note that assignments are open for specific times and in a specific order. Check the MyLabsPlus calendar frequently to be sure you are keeping current with your assignments. You must keep up with the progression in order to succeed in this course. Late assignments will not be reopened without a compelling reason. Mathematics is more than crunching numbers, and learning is a process. You can find the MyLabsPlus icon at the top of the my.umt.edu page: <http://my.umt.edu/>.

TESTS: Five tests will be given in class. The scheduled dates are shown on the Course Outline and are *not* flexible. Please understand that it is disrespectful and counterproductive for non-DSS students to expect personalized test times, although instructors are all very much aware that people have lives and unexpected events do occur. If arrangements for making up a test have not been made within a week, the test grade is automatically set to ZERO.

You are allowed to use a calculator and one 8½"x11" page of notes (front and back). **You are not permitted to use a cell phone or any internet-capable device.** Corrected tests will be returned within one week after the test date. If you have questions regarding the grading of your test, please wait until after class to discuss it.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam for this class will be given in class during finals week and is worth 150 points. The final exam is optional for any student who has an A in the course on the Friday before finals week. See the UM Finals Week schedule for the time.

TUTORING: Math tutoring is available for all UM students. Check for hours at the Academic Support Center (ASC) at the Missoula College campus (AD 06; 243-7826; two days' notice required for scheduling tests) and at math@Mansfield on the Mountain Campus: <http://cas.umt.edu/math/undergraduate/all-students/free-tutoring.php>

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS: Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/dss/>. Examples of

reasonable accommodations include extra time or use of a quiet room for tests and/or quizzes. To qualify for reasonable accommodations you must provide a letter from DSS. You are responsible for making the necessary arrangements with DSS (for the Mountain Campus) or the ASC (for the Missoula College campus). If you have any questions, please contact me.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT: All students must practice academic honesty as defined by the Student Conduct Code, available at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the instructor and a disciplinary sanction by the university.

GRADE OPTION: M090 can be taken for a traditional letter grade only. M090 cannot be audited or taken credit/no credit.

EXTRA CREDIT: There is no extra credit available for this course.

GRADING POLICIES: Your final grade will be computed as follows:

MyLabsPlus homework:	35%
MyLabsPlus quizzes:	15%
In-class tests:	40%
Final exam:	10%

Letter grades correspond to numerical scores according to this plan:

RA	RB	RC	RD	RF
90-100%	80-89%	70-79%	60-69%	Below 60%

PETITION TO DROP: Petitions for dropping will be considered only for students who provide written verification of at least one university approved excuse:

1. Error in registration
2. Accident or illness
3. Family emergency
4. Change in work schedule

Reasons that are not satisfactory include:

1. Forgetting to turn in a drop slip
2. Protecting a student's grade point average

See Important Dates below for more information.

INCOMPLETES: A grade of incomplete will only be considered when all three of the following are true:

1. The student has been in regular attendance and passing up to three weeks before the end of the academic semester.
2. Factors beyond the student's control make it impossible to complete the course on time.
3. The instructor and the student agree that there is a reasonable probability that the student will be able to make-up the work required to complete the course and specific arrangements are drawn up and signed by both.

A student who receives an incomplete has one calendar year to resolve the incomplete (I) before it automatically reverts to a failing grade (F).

IMPORTANT DATES

Important Dates and Deadlines is found at <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/Spring2015RegistrationDeadlineChart.pdf>

Class Day 7:

Last day for students to Add classes via CyberBear without consent.

Class Day 15:

- ✓ Last day to register for classes, add classes with override slip/electronic override, change credits in variable credit courses, or drop classes with a refund on CyberBear or with override slip/electronic override.
- ✓ Last day to withdraw from the semester (drop all courses) with a partial refund.
- ✓ Last day to change grading option to or from audit.
- ✓ Last day to Buy or Refuse health insurance coverage or add clinical health fee.

Class Day 16 – Class Day 45:

- ✓ Autumn Semester course changes require a drop/add form with Advisor and Instructor signatures.
- ✓ Students can add or drop courses or change grading options, except audit. \$10 fees will be assessed per drop and per add.
- ✓ A 'W' will appear on the transcript.

Class Day 46 – Friday before finals week:

- ✓ Autumn Semester course changes require a petition form available at Griz Central Registration Counter with Advisor, Instructor and Dean Signatures.
- ✓ Students can add or drop courses or change grading options, except audit. \$10 fees will be assessed per drop and per add.
- ✓ A 'WP' or 'WF' will appear on the transcript.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Academic calendar available at <http://www.umt.edu/provost/about/academiccalendar.aspx>

Finals schedule available at <http://staging.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/finalSpr15.pdf>

Office for Student Success (math placement)
<http://www.umt.edu/oss/>

Some other useful websites:

Purplemath.com <http://www.purplemath.com/>
Coping with Math Anxiety <http://www.mathacademy.com/pr/minitext/anxiety/>
Math.com Anxiety Study Tips <http://www.math.com/students/advice/anxiety.html>
Khan Academy <http://www.khanacademy.org>
MathBits: Using TI calculator <http://mathbits.com/MathBits/TISection/Openpage.htm#General>
Another great TI 83/84 help site <http://www.prenhall.com/divisions/esm/app/graphing/ti83/>
Calculator help for other models http://www.prenhall.com/divisions/esm/app/calc_v2/
Free graph paper generator <http://incompetech.com/graphpaper/>