Math 100 – Precalculus: Elementary Functions
Fall 2007

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Lectures: MWF 10:10-11:05, Emerson 3

Office: Lansing 303
Hours: M 1-2p, W 11:30-12:30, F 2-3p
or by appointment
Lab: Th 10:20-11:45, Coxe 7

Goals: An old Indian saying states, “Like the crest of a peacock, so is mathematics at the head of all knowledge.” Unfortunately, it is not always made clear why this is the case. In this course, we will have two main aims. The first will be to see how and why mathematics is relevant in the natural and social sciences and also in our everyday lives. Secondly, we will be building familiarity and facility with functions and the concepts that underpin all mathematics. These functions are the basic language in which scientific questions are explored. In addition, we will focus on practical skills such as translating a situation into mathematical terms and interpreting the results of calculations in terms of their real-world context. With these skills in hand, you will be ready to take on calculus, and able to concentrate on the new ideas presented in that course.

Text: Faires and DeFranza, Precalculus, 4th ed.

Prerequisites: This course is intended for students intending to continue on to the calculus sequence of courses. If you are not planning to go on after this course, there are more appropriate courses to satisfy the quantitative requirement, such as Math 110: Discovery in Mathematics.

Laboratory Meetings: Our section will meet every Thursday for a problem solving laboratory session. Attendance is required. This is an excellent time to ask questions about the course material and get help on the specific issues that you are encountering.

Homework: Homework will be assigned daily and collected weekly on Mondays. If needed, quizzed will be given and counted as part of the homework score. All work must be shown on homework and quizzes to receive full credit, and these problems should be completed on your own. No late homework will be accepted.

In addition to the problems you will turn in, I have provided a list of suggested problems. These are the problems I feel will help you the most to understand the material and perform well on the exams. Feel free to work together on these problems, and I recommend that you try these problems before the problems you will hand in.

As a rule, if you do poorly on the homework, you will also do poorly on the exams. Do not let this happen to you. Be diligent in keeping up with the homework and the reading. The stronger grasp of the preceding material, the easier the later topics will be.
**Exams:** There will be three exams during the term, and a comprehensive final exam. The exam dates are

- **Exam I:** Thursday, September 27th
- **Exam II:** Thursday, October 25th
- **Exam III:** Thursday, November 29th
- **Final:** Wednesday, December 12th, 1:30p

All exams except the final are in the normal class time and place. Because it is impossible to construct a fair make-up exam, **there will be no makeup exams**, except in situations where it is required by the colleges. **Note the dates now and let me know immediately of any conflicts.**

**Grades:** The lowest homework score will be dropped, and the average of the remaining scores will count as 100 points. Each exam, including the final, will also count as 100 points. Of these five scores (homework plus four exams), the lowest will be dropped and the average of the remaining four will be your grade for the course. There is no set grading scale, but average score for the course will generally earn a B-.

**Office Hours:** I have listed my proposed office hours on this syllabus. Let me know if you cannot make an of these, and I will try to establish a time that you can attend. I am also available by appointment; just let me know you would like to meet, and we will set up a time. I am here to help you succeed in this course.

**Math Intern:** Remember that the Math Intern, David Brown, is available in Lansing 310 for extra help during the day and the evenings. His office hours are Sunday-Thursday 3-6p and 7-10p.

**Blackboard:** All handouts and other resources for this class can be found on Blackboard (courses.hws.edu). There, you will also find discussion boards and announcements about upcoming events in class and in the wider math community. This is also a great place for you to give me feedback about the course, anonymously. Please check in here regularly so that nothings slips past you.

**Attendance:** You are expected to be present in class and to participate actively. Playing an active role in class will improve your performance on exams and give you a chance to get your questions answered. More than three absences or lack of participation will negatively affect your grade.

**The Center for Teaching and Learning:** Hobart and William Smith Colleges encourage you to seek the academic collaboration available to you to demonstrate your best work. Students who would like to enhance their study skills, writing skills, or have any academic inquiries can contact the CTL. If you are a student with an identified disability and you would like to receive accommodations, please provide me with the necessary documentation from the CTL at the start of the semester (students with disabilities have to register at the Center), so that I can best accommodate your needs. CTL staff encourages each of you to stop by Harris Hall to learn what is available to you at this academic resource. Please contact the CTL at 781-3351 to make an appointment or stop by Harris Hall (on South Main, next to Merritt Hall) to meet with Center Staff.