

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SYLLABUS Fall 2010 (subject to change)

Introductory Algebra - MTH 085.55, FR 237 @ 4 & MTH 085.56, FR 239 @ 6:15

Prof Irene Starr
istarr@hcc.edu
Frost 133

Welcome

Office hours: before/after class
and by appointment
www.starr.net/is/math/

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the ideas, notation, and techniques of elementary algebra, graphs, and problem solving. Credits earned in this course do not count toward the total credits required for graduation. Prerequisite: MTH 070 or MTH 075 (with a grade of C- or better) or adequate score on the Mathematics Placement Examination. 4 class hours 4 credits.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This course is a first course in algebra. No prior knowledge of algebra is needed. It is assumed, however, that you have an understanding of basics (pre-algebra) as taught in MTH 075. Two algebra courses follow this: MTH 095-Intermediate Algebra, MTH 104-College Algebra.

REQUIRED INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

1. Lial, Hornsby and McGinnis, *Beginning Algebra*, 10th ed. Pearson, Addison Wesley.
ISBN-10: 0321437268 | ISBN-13: 9780321437266
2. Notebook (or folders) for keeping notes, homework, and tests.
3. Calculator –for use when appropriate after chapter 1!



INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS: Lecture, class discussion, oral recitation, working problems in class, group work, blackboard work, computer software, and/or videos may be used. Handouts during the semester will list topics, homework assignments, and reading for the coming week(s). Both knowledge (facts, terms, definitions, and principles) and comprehension (solving, explaining and interpreting) are important. *If you have any condition that needs academic accommodations, please notify me the first week of the term.*

TESTING AND EVALUATION: Exams, quizzes, projects, homework assignments, and/or class participation.

ASSISTANCE:

1. Before, during, or after class, or by appointment, or by email which I check most days.
2. Math Center, DON240. Free walk-in and one-on-one tutoring. Help with study procedures, problem-solving strategies, and overcoming math anxiety. Materials for algebra, basic math, and other topics are available.
3. Your classmates and/or informal study sessions you arrange with classmates.

EXPECTATIONS: I expect you to want to learn and that we can all learn from each other. Reading and keeping up to date with assignments, getting help as soon as you need it, and sharing your questions with me and the class are essential. If you are having any difficulties (relating to absences, keeping up, health, car troubles, etc), please let me know sooner rather than later. It may be possible to work around these in some creative way.

You will learn mathematics best by PRACTICING it (doing the reading, exercises, and exams) – just as one does for a sport or musical instrument. In order to enhance the value of written exercises and to receive proper credit for your work, please follow these guidelines:

1. Plan to spend about 6-8 hours per week on homework (that's 1.5-2 hours at home for each hour in class).
2. Write legibly. Keep erasures and cross outs clear.
3. Do problems in the assigned order - or indicate the pages where they are located.
4. Use standard size paper. If you use paper from a spiral binder, please remove and toss the messy fringes.
5. Please place the following information on the pages of your work:

- ◆ Your name and the date. ◆ The text pages and problem numbers you are doing
6. Please staple or clip your pages together at the upper left-hand corner.

GRADES: Correct answers AND your method are needed for full credit. As appropriate, show your methods, strategies, reasoning, numerical accuracy, a diagram or sketch, an understanding of the mathematical ideas or process. If there is a mistake or oversight in the grading, please let me know immediately. It's important to do the daily reading and homework, ask questions, avoid last minute work, and study adequately for tests.

1. I will collect daily **homework** at the beginning of each class and plan to return it at the next class. It will be marked as tried or not tried. In addition, I will grade 1 or 2 problems per assignment. The homework will be discussed in class. **LATE HOMEWORK CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Note that the answers to odd-numbered exercises are in the back of the text. Several announced short **quizzes** will be given during the term. **NO MAKE-UP ON QUIZZES.** Semester points for homework, quizzes, class participation are about 200. If you would like to earn extra credit, please discuss project ideas with me. Submitting math humor or news/sports articles (with lots of numbers) are also suitable for extra credit.
2. **Hour exams** (3) will be announced in advance (about one exam each month). The exams will be worth 100 points each. Missed exams may be made up for medical or emergency reasons only; a written excuse may be required. You must contact me ASAP to discuss taking a missed exam. Total is 300.
3. The **final exam** is worth 200 points, requires 2 hours time and covers the semester's work.
4. The course grade is based on the total points earned on parts 1-3 above, divided by the total possible points (about 700). Conversion of numeric grades to final grades will follow the guidelines in the college catalog. 600 total points earned out of 700 would be an 86 or B.
5. Information on mid-semester grades, incompletes, academic withdrawal, prerequisites for other math classes, and graduation requirements are in the college catalog.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Regular attendance and promptness are especially important with fewer but longer classes. If you simply stop coming to class, you may wind up with an F in the course or an Academic Withdrawal. **Note that, if you must drop the class, it is better for your transcript if you initiate the process.**

Please don't ask the following: "Are we going to be doing anything important on Tuesday?" Yes we're going to do something important or I wouldn't be there either. "Is it OK if I'm absent on Thursday?" or "Is it OK if I leave early?" I prefer you to be in class, simply because I want you to succeed. But it's your decision. Do what you have to do. Just remember that you're responsible for the material. "Can you tell me what we talked about on Tuesday?" No, I can't. We talked about a lot, and I spent 2 hours on it. If you have a legitimate reason for your absence, then see me during office hours and I'll try to bring you up to speed. Otherwise, you can contact classmates to learn what you missed.

CONDUCT should include good manners, being considerate of others, attending the entire class, keeping your cell phone off, honesty, etc. If you need to leave early or temporarily, you need not ask permission. Just quietly leave.

ASSIGNMENT: Due Thursday Sept 9th

1. **Contact** me by email just to say HI: (computers are available on campus and at most public libraries)
2. **Complete** the form I handed out. I would prefer that you send the information to me by email.
3. **Come** to my office: Frost 133
4. **Continue** to the Math Center web page at www.hcc.edu/campus/Information.html. Write a sentence or two in your own words about their services.
5. **Browse the Feature Walkthrough pages xix-xxiv in the text.**
6. **Read sections 1, 2, 3 in Chapter 1.**
7. **Pages 11-14, exercises 19-22, 23-26, 31, 32, 33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 55, 59, 63, 67, 90**