Beginning Algebra (Math 50) Syllabus

Palomar College – Spring 2010

A syllabus is an important and legally binding document. It is the student’s responsibility to thoroughly understand its contents.

Class Website: http://faculty.palomar.edu/mmumford/index.htm
Homework Website: https://www.webassign.net/login.html

Instructor Information
Michael Mumford, Associate Professor, Mathematics
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Office Hours: TTh 7-8:15 am, 2:30-3 pm, 6-6:30 pm and 9:30-10 pm
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You Need Internet Access and an Email Account
You will need Internet access to complete the daily homework assignments, check on class updates and to print out the note-guides, practice exams, exam keys and other course materials. Please check the website regularly. I will often notify you of class changes by email. Please make sure the email address Student eServices has for you is correct. If you did not receive an email from me before the semester began, then the email address Palomar has for you needs to be updated. See me, any of the computer lab assistants, or ask at the administration desk if you need help updating your email information.

Textbook, Calculator and Other Supplies
The required textbook is *Beginning Algebra with Applications, 7th Edition* by Aufmann & Barker (ISBN: 9780618978663). The student solutions manual is highly recommended (ISBN: 9780618820641). All homework is submitted online through webassign.net. Webassign.net sells the homework program by itself for $35, or $60 when bundled with the online version of the textbook. The bookstore sells webassign’s homework program bundled with the hardcopy form of the textbook for $160 (ISBN: 9781111019815). You will need a scientific calculator. The note-guides and all lectures are tailored to Texas Instrument’s TI-83/TI-84 calculators ($90-$130). You will also need a ruler, three-ring binder, loose-leaf paper, graph paper, pencil and a stapler. Please bring your note-guides and calculator everyday.

Pace and Realistic Academic Expectations
We will cover 10 chapters of the textbook; 2-3 sections each day. This is the same material taught in high school, but at almost three times the pace. Learning mathematics at a college pace requires considerably more time, patience and discipline than almost all other subjects. Since fewer then 50% of students pass mathematics courses with a “C” or better, plan on spending at least 12 hours per week of independent study time outside of class. I admit there is nothing “fair” about how much time a math class takes out of your life relative to other subjects. It is your challenge and responsibility to accept this reality and move forward. If
you have more than one other class and either a full-time job or small children, then your academic expectations are probably not reasonable.

**Grades**
The eight equally-weighted components of your course grade are six regular exams (100 points each), a comprehensive final exam (100 points), and the homework-attendance-participation grade (100 points collectively). Your grade shall be determined by the average of those eight components using the following percentage ranges: A (“Excellent Performance,” 90 - 100%), B (“Good Performance,” 80 - 89.99%), C (“Adequate Performance,” 70 - 79.99%), D (“Poor Performance,” 60 - 69.99%), and F (“Failing Performance,” below 60%).

**Final Exam**
The comprehensive final exam must be taken Thursday 5/20/2010 from 9:45-11:35 am in our normal classroom.

**Homework, Attendance & Participation Grade**
Homework, attendance and participation are necessary to be successful in this course. Collectively, your homework, attendance and participation grade is equivalent to one exam grade (i.e. 1/8 of your total grade). To receive full-credit on a homework assignment it must be submitted before the due date shown on webassign (i.e. before the next class). **Warning:** The homework assignments are a minimal amount of work to keep up in the course – you will have to do a lot more problems to adequately study for the exams. Attendance and Participation points are awarded daily for arriving on-time and participating for the entire 2-hour class.

**No Late Work Accepted; No Early Exams or Makeup Exams Given**
I do not accept any late homework, nor do I give individual makeup exams. However, your lowest exam score is replaced by your final exam score, and the homework grades are curved at the end of the semester so that the highest homework score is 110%. This policy is designed to accommodate all life circumstances that would cause you to fall behind, such as, health problems, child-care problems, job problems, transportation problems, over-procrastination, etc.

**The Course gets Progressively More Difficult**
Without any doubt, the course material and the exams get more difficult as the semester progresses. The first exam contains a lot of prerequisite material and always has the highest average. The remaining exams require you to know the previous material at higher and higher levels of fluency. The comprehensive final exam generally has the lowest score.

**Academic Integrity**
(Board Policy BP 300.3 and 305) You are encouraged to work together and assist each other on the homework assignments. However, be aware that all exams are an individual effort and must be taken without any assistance whatsoever. Anyone found giving assistance, receiving assistance, using any other unauthorized source of information on any exam, or cheating in any other way shall receive a zero on that exam that exam and that zero will count in your course grade computation.
Please Turn-Off All Electronic Devices
Using a cell phone, iPod, PDA, game, etc for any reason during class is inappropriate. Please turn off all such devices before coming into class. Furthermore, use of any electronic device, other than an approved calculator (TI-83/84) during any exam is prohibited.

Drop Deadlines, Drop Policy & Reinstatement Policy
If you wish to withdraw from the course, make sure you do it yourself by the drop deadlines shown. Board Policy BP 418.2 allows instructors to drop students through 03/18 for three reasons: (1) excessive (i.e. 2 or more) absences, (2) missing an exam, or (3) poor participation (i.e. less than 60% on the homework). Arriving late or leaving early will each count as an absence. Any student who meets any of the three conditions and appears unable to earn a “C” or better will be dropped from the course. Any student dropped from the course who wishes to remain in the course may do so by (1) bringing their grade up to a “C”, and (2) bringing the instructor a filled-out reinstatement form for his signature.

Inappropriate Behavior
Please refrain from disruptive or inappropriate behavior in class. The most common disruptive and inappropriate behaviors are (1) speaking when the instructor is speaking, (2) leaving while class is in session, (3) arriving while class is in session, and (4) using electronic devices in class. The California Education Code grants the instructor, at his sole discretion, the right to suspend a student from his class for up to 2 classes per incident.

Free Tutoring Centers
The Mathematics Learning Center (MLC 744-1150 ext. 2718, http://math.palomar.edu/mlc/) is located in room E-2 on the main campus and is open 9 am – 8 pm Monday through Thursday and 9 am – 3 pm on Friday. Free walk-in tutoring is available in the MLC during those hours. The Palomar tutoring center (760-744-1150 ext. 2448) is located on the first floor of the library and offers free tutoring. The Escondido Center has tutors in room 10 (744-1150 ext. 8128). Paid tutors are also available - see tutoring services or ask in the MLC. I am generally willing to come in early and stay late to help students and my office hours this semester are just before and after my classes. You are also encouraged to exchange phone numbers and email addresses with other students and feel free to email me with questions.

The access instructions for webassign.net are on the next page
Daily Homework through webassign.net
Homework is assigned each class and must be completed online through webassign.net before the next class. The cost for the homework program is $35 by itself, or $60 when bundled with the online-version of the textbook. Register and make payments directly to webassign.net on their website. Register by following these three steps:

**WARNING:** webassign.net is **not** affiliated with Palomar College and registering for webassign.net does **not** register you for a Palomar College course. To register for a Palomar College course you must go onto Palomar College’s website.

**STEP 1** Go to https://www.webassign.net/login.html and click **I have a Class Key**

![WebAssign Login](image)

**STEP 2** Enter the Class Key in three parts: Type **palomar** in the first box followed **4610** in the second box and **2095** in the third box. Then click the **Submit** button.

![Enter Class Key](image)

**STEP 3** Follow the WebAssign instructions to complete your registration. You will need your Palomar student ID number.