

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
School of General Studies
MTHU110 – College Algebra
Spring 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Leroy S. Jackson, Jr.
OFFICE: 228 Curry Student Center
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday (1630-1730 hrs)
OFFICE TELEPHONE: (617) 373-2493
E-MAIL ADDRESS: l.jackson@neu.edu

TEXT: *Precalculus (Fifth Edition) Mathematic for Calculus by Stewart, Redlin, and Watson*

EXPECTATIONS:

I would love for every student to leave my class with a deep passion for mathematics, but even I know, that's a bit ambitious. Therefore, I hope that every student gains an understanding and appreciation for the application of mathematics and leaves my class equipped with the skills necessary to be successful in their future math courses.

COURSE POLICIES:

1. ATTENDANCE:
Attendance is a must in this class. DO NOT SCHEDULE OTHER ACTIVITIES (e.g., interviews, medical appointments) DURING THIS CLASS. The classroom environment is viewed as a place of business; therefore, if you must miss a class OR LEAVE CLASS EARLY, clear it, in advance with me.
2. HOLIDAY: The following days are official university holidays: 21 Jan (Martin Luther King's Birthday), 18 Feb (President's Day), and 3-7 Mar (Spring Vacation).
No class will be held on these days during the time indicated.
3. PREPARATION OUTSIDE OF CLASS:
Daily preparation outside of class is equally important. Just as members of a sports team cannot hope to be successful just by showing up for the games, you must practice regularly and faithfully. I recommend that you read each chapter BEFORE working the problems. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES
4. CHEATING:
IF YOU ARE CAUGHT CHEATING ON ANY ASSIGNMENT, TEST (PARTY), OR EXAM, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THE COURSE.
5. EXTRA HELP:
You can receive extra help from your instructor during office hours, or from a peer tutor. (More information will be given later.)
6. ELECTRONIC DEVICES:
The use of electronic devices (i.e., beepers, cell phones, walkman, radios, etc) ARE NOT ALLOWED in the classroom. If any of these devices cause a disruption to the classroom environment, you will be warned the first time. The second time will result in dismissal from class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. HOMWORK:

Five assignment sheets will be given throughout this semester. Each sheet will contain assignments that will cover material on which you will be tested. Homework should be done on loose-leaf paper since it will be collected. The number of the assignment and pages from the book must be written at the beginning of the assignment. **ANY PROBLEM ASSIGNED MUST BE COPIED FROM TEXT OR HAND-OUT (EXCEPTION: WORD PROBLEMS).** All work must be shown on homework papers.

2. TESTS (Parties):

There will be five (parties) given in this course. A TEST (PARTY) WILL BE GIVEN EVERY OTHER THURSDAY. There will be no “makeup” test (party). The lowest grade will be dropped. If you are absent for a party, it will be your dropped grade. Test (party) corrections will be applied to each test (party) at the discretion of the instructor.

PARTY DATES: 24 Jan, 7 Feb, 21 Feb, 13 Mar, 27 Mar

3. FINAL EXAM (Big Dance)

A cumulative final exam will be given at the end of the semester during exam week. Every student will take the final on the day and at the time specified by the registrar. No student will be granted a request for a special final exam unless it is due to a registrar-created conflict. If you miss the final exam, you will receive a grade of zero as there will be no make-up given. So, be sure to check the final exam schedule before you make holiday plans – a plane ticket will not excuse you from the final. **BIG DANCE (Final Exam) is 23 Apr @ 1300 hrs.**

4. Although a calculator is recommended for this course, a graphing calculator is optional.

GRADING:

Performance in the course will be judged on the basis of the following:

Homework	10%
Parties (Tests)	50%
Final Exam	40%

The following table indicates final grades associated with difference percentage of earned credit:

100 – 94 = A	76 – 74 = C
93 – 90 = A-	73 – 70 = C-
89 – 87 = B+	69 – 67 = D+
86 – 84 = B	66 – 64 = D
83 – 80 = B-	63 – 60 = D-
79 – 77 = C+	Below 60 = F

THESE POLICIES ARE MEANT AS A GUIDE. REVISIONS MAY BE MADE AT ANY TIME DURING THE SEMESTER.

TOPICS:

Polynomials

Rational Expression

Rectangular Coordinates

Intro. To Graphing Equations

Symmetry; Circles

Solving Equations

Solving Inequalities

Lines

Functions

Linear Functions and Models

Quadratic Functions, Model

The Parabola

Systems of Linear Equations

Sets and Counting

Permutations, Combinations

Probability

Conic Sections