

Teacher: Mr. Byers

Room: 265

Contact info: jack.byers@lubbockisd.org

Tutoring Times: Tuesday/Wednesday 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Required Supplies: Coming to class prepared to work is essential to performing well. Students should come to class with materials everyday and expect to use them. If you need to leave them in the classroom to make sure they are always available that can be worked out. Here is a suggestion of materials you should bring.

- Notebook paper - will be needed everyday so you'll need a lot
- Graphing paper, compass, protractor.
- Writing utensils - pencils, pens.
- Texts

It is an important part of your learning that you follow along and come to class prepared with the appropriate background material and portions of the text read. We will use the following texts in this course:

College Algebra, Blitzer. (2014). College Algebra, 6th ed . Pearson. ISBN 10:0-321-78228-3.

Openstax 'College Algebra'

'Basic Mathematics' by Serge Lang.

Google Classroom: Much of the communication for the class will take place through the Google Classroom. You will want to check it daily for updates, assignments and notes. I will provide notes of some sort quite regularly through the Google Classroom but you are expected to take notes during lectures and assignments as well. It is important that you keep up to date on communications with me by checking this.

Course Description:

The class is a general survey of topics in college level algebra. Students will gain exposure to the material and demonstrate mastery of it at the successful completion of the course. The course will include the following topics: Exponents and Rational Exponents, Operations on Radicals, Polynomials, Factoring techniques, Rational Expressions, Linear Equations, Complex Numbers, Quadratic Equations, Linear and Quadratic Inequalities, Functions and their Graphs, Polynomial Division, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, Systems of Equations and Matrices, and the Binomial Theorem.

If time permits we may also cover additional topics. These may include sequences and series, mathematical proof techniques, trigonometry, concepts from calculus, and basic concepts from abstract algebra. We will also spend some time discussing college life and degree plans, specifically the role of mathematics in each.

Grades:

Mathematics requires consistent practice to master. During class we will work on assignments. Take home work will be assigned readings and videos that will help you know how to complete the next days assignments. Completing these will be essential to your performance in class the following day.

You will be assessed regularly through the following methods:

In Class Assignments - The daily assignments we work through in class.

Out of Class Assignments - You will frequently have a quiz question following each assigned video or set of notes. This question will be administered at the top of class the following day.

Quiz- Nearly every week you will have a short quiz (3-5 questions). Out of class assignments will sometimes also come with a quiz question the next day, and all combined count for an additional quiz. On a quiz I will collect your cell phone

and you are to work independently, though quizzes are always open note.

Tests- Every six weeks will have two tests. The tests will include everything learned since the previous test. Cell phones will be collected on test days and you will not be allowed to use your notes other than a prepared 3x5 index card.

Grading Breakdown

Assignments - 30% Daily problems, weekly assignments, notebook checks and board work.

Assessments - 70% Regular quizzes, tests, pop quizzes, projects.

Late Work: All late assignments are penalized 30%. An in-class assignment is late if it is submitted anytime after the class period it was due during ends. Other assignments are late at the start of class the next class period from when they were due. Often times I may extend an assignment if we run short on time so pay close attention for changes to due dates and watch google classroom for updates.

Make-up Work: The course seeks to help prepare students for a college environment. Initially much of the highschool safety net you are used to will be in place. On a schedule these will be rolled back until the course is functioning like a college level course. The schedule is detailed below:

1st 6 weeks: Students may complete retakes on any assignment to achieve a grade of 80. The teacher will provide class time for reteaching and for students to make corrections. Students can attempt retakes any number of times.

2nd 6 weeks Students may complete retakes on any assignment to achieve a grade of 70. The teacher will provide class time for reteaching and for students to make corrections. Students can attempt retakes only 3 times.

3rd 6 weeks: Students may complete retakes on any assignment to achieve a grade of 70. the teacher will provide class time for reteaching but students must arrange to use time outside of class for corrections. Students can attempt retakes only once.

4th 6 weeks: Students may complete retakes on quizzes and tests to achieve a grade of 70. The teacher will provide class time for reteaching but students must arrange to use time outside of class for completing corrections. Students can attempt to retake an assignment just once.

5th 6 weeks: Students may complete retakes on tests to achieve a grade of 70. The teacher will provide class time for reteaching but students must arrange to use time outside of class for completing corrections. Students can attempt to retake an assignment just once.

6th 6 weeks: Students will not have the opportunity to complete a retake on assignments. The teacher will still provide time for reteaching after quizzes and tests.

Absences:

If you are absent from class you should stay current through the Google Classroom. If you have questions, talk to me and clarify things swiftly. You will need to complete the makeup assignments in a timely fashion and will typically be given no more time to finish it than you missed. I am available to tutor missed class periods most days from 4pm-5pm. Missed in-class work would need to be completed during these times.

Remember, your grade is your responsibility, not your teacher's.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be polite and civil to others at all times.
2. You may chew gum, or have small candy such as peppermints but no other food is permitted. If you have a drink, it needs to be in a sealed container (bottled water, thermos, etc).
3. Keep focus on course material at all times. You should stay on task at all times.
4. You will not be allowed a cell phone on test days, nor during quizzes. During these occasions I will collect your cell phones and they will be returned at the end of class. **Failure to turn over a cell phone will result in a zero on the assignment.** The first 10 minutes of class are always a no cell phone time and they will need to be put away while we handle warm up exercises, go over the outline for the day, and do any class housekeeping that needs to be done.

Academic Honesty: I encourage you to work and study together often and most assignments will be open to collaboration. However, there are times when you need to demonstrate your own independent ability to work and solve problems. This means that there will be assignments that are to be completed on your own, without any assistance from others. Students who violate this expectation can expect to receive a zero on the assignment.

Bathroom Policy: Try and take care of your business before class. However, I understand that is not always possible. You will not be allowed to use the bathroom while I am lecturing. Otherwise it is on a case by case basis. Abuse of bathroom privileges will result in loss of privilege. Per Monterey's policy, I have bathroom passes available and you will need one to be out in the halls.

Keys to Success:

- Attend classes regularly and have fun with the material
- Participate in classroom activities
- Take notes and study
- Practice, practice practice!