

**MATH 0210 – Mathematics II
Spring 2010**

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 10 – 11

ADDITIONAL HOURS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT (stop by anytime)

Texts: *Intermediate Algebra, 4th Edition* by Alice Kaseberg
Math 0210 Geometry Connections by Barbara Brown

Calculator: You will need at least a scientific calculator in class every day. I recommend that you get a graphing calculator if you plan to continue on to College Algebra or beyond. See me if you want a recommendation.

Resources: The following resources are available to you FOR FREE:

1. Me
2. Your fellow classmates
3. Math Skills and Advising Center

Homework: Homework will be assigned daily. To be successful in this class, all the assigned homework problems (if not more) should be understood; however, this homework will not be collected regularly. Instead, periodic homework checks will be used to help determine grades for students who are on the border between grades. Besides doing the homework on a consistent basis, you should plan on reading through all the sections covered in this class, paying special attention to the examples.

Problem Sets (~45 points): There will be approximately seven problem sets assigned during the course. The purpose of these problem sets is to allow you to explore mathematical ideas in a relaxed setting and at your own pace. By discussing mathematical concepts with others, your own understanding will be enhanced. As a result, working with a group of your fellow classmates is required.

Quizzes (~10 points): There will be quizzes given periodically to check your understanding of the current material. These quizzes *may* be unannounced and *may* be group quizzes.

Tests (~285 points): There will be seven in-class tests given during the course. The tests will be somewhat cumulative and may include a calculator and a no-calculator part. It's important to learn from our mistakes, so you'll be correcting all of your tests too. These corrected tests will be helpful for reviewing for the final exam.

Make-up policy: In general, I will not accept late problem sets nor will you be allowed to make up quizzes or tests. If you have an emergency, be sure to contact me as soon as possible to see what to do.

Attendance: You are responsible for all announcements, handouts, and assignments discussed in class.

Email: Make sure you check your metnet email account regularly for special announcements.

Final Exam (~60 points): The comprehensive final exam is scheduled for May 13, 2010, from 9:40 – 11:40 am.

Grading: For determining your final grade, I will be *guided* by the following scale:

360 – 400 points	A
320 – 359 points	B
280 – 319 points	C
240 – 279 points	D
below 240 points	NC

To take this course P/NC, you must notify me in writing by May 13, 2010. You must get at least 280 points for a "P" grade.

HOW TO DO WELL ON MATH TESTS

STUDYING

1. Study for at least a half-hour but not more than 1½ hours without taking a break.
2. Take breaks of around 10 minutes. It's refreshing to do some stretching and mild exercising during breaks, but use the time for calling friends, daydreaming, snacking, etc., too. Discipline yourself so that your breaks don't stretch out to be too long. It's better to take several short breaks while studying than one long break.
3. Complete and understand all assigned problems. Work out related problems. Make up your own too! That's the best way to understand the principles.
4. Try to study when you are most alert. Late night or all night studying may have diminishing returns.
5. Find a quiet place to study so that once your concentration becomes established it won't be broken.
6. Have a place that's reserved for studying and nothing else, and keep it neat and distraction free. You will become conditioned to concentrate and study better there.
7. Take care of yourself -- eat well and exercise. You'll be able to concentrate better and longer if you're in good physical shape.
8. Study math every day -- don't save it up for right before the test.
9. If you are having difficulty with the course, get help early.
10. There are tutors available to help you. Remember that in math learning builds on learning, so don't fall behind!

TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES

Before the Test:

1. Find out all you can about the format and content of the test. If possible, talk to students who have had the course to get a feel for what the instructor emphasizes.
2. If possible, have friends in the class or a tutor make up sample tests.
3. Time yourself when taking a sample test or just studying. Get used to 50 minute time blocks so that during the real test you won't have to look at the clock.
4. Notice the directions for each set of homework problems. They will tell you what to do with the different types of problems. The directions for the problems on a test are often the same as those in the text.

During the Test:

1. Read directions carefully. On word problems, read the entire problem first, identify what they want you to do, then reread the problem with that in mind.
2. Look over the entire test before you start. Try to get an idea of the relative difficulty and value of questions. Start with those that seem easiest or those that offer the largest number of points. The former helps get your concentration and confidence up; the latter is the most efficient.
3. If you get stumped, go on and come back later. Just by working other problems you may get the clue to a difficult one. When you return to it, think about everything you know related to that problem and try working whatever parts you can.