Syllabus

Math 118 Fall ‘19

Text: **Precalculus (Mathematics for Calculus)**, **7th** edition by Stewart, et al

Instructor: Jed Herman Office: SCI D 287

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Office Hours: M 11:00 – 11:50, TR 1:00 – 1:50, W 3:00 – 3:50

or by appointment (or whenever I’m in… just stop by!)

Class times & room Section 01: MTWR 12:00 – 12:50 in CCC 212

Section 02: MTWR 2:00 – 2:50 in SCI A207

Mathematics-specific Learning Objectives

• Develop mastery of function theory material necessary to succeed in a calculus course, particularly polynomial functions, exponentials, logarithms and rational functions

• Develop skills with systems of equations

• Learn about conic sections and sequences

• Present and communicate mathematical ideas effectively to others

• Work in small groups to answer mathematical problems

Critical Thinking Learning Objectives

This course is part of a pilot program that focuses on the development of critical thinking skills across the disciplines. In mathematics, critical thinking helps us identify mathematical problems, transform them into solvable problems, and solve them using appropriate techniques. The pilot adds the following learning outcomes to the course:

• Recognize critical thinking as a process of identifying, evaluating and constructing mathematical reasoning in deciding what conclusions to draw or what techniques to apply

• Recognize that practice – and persistence – are critical to developing and strengthening mathematical ability

• Demonstrate persistence in mastering mathematical concepts and techniques

Calculators

A graphing calculator is necessary for this course in order to complete homework assignments and exams. You will also need to bring one to class regularly. Your best option is a calculator from the TI-series, such as a TI-84 or TI-86. You will be responsible for knowing how to properly use your calculator. Calculators with QWERTY-style keyboards, such as the TI-92, and calculators with symbolic capabilities, such as the TI-89, will not be allowed on exams without special permission.

A benefit of using graphing calculators is that they have a memory capable of holding a small number of formulas and/or notes. You may freely keep notes in your calculator for use on quizzes and exams – so you should probably learn how to do so!

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Grading

Grading will be based on an overall percentage score, using the following scale:

90%+ A- or better 80%-89.9% B-, B or B+

70%-79.9% C-, C or C+ 60%-69.9% D-, D or D+

<60% F

I reserve the right to adjust the final percentage +/- up to about 2%, based on my assessment of your effort and/or participation in the class and course in general.

To get your overall score, you will be graded on the following:

Participation/Daily (in class) Homework 1/6\*

“Quizzes” (best nine) 1/6\*

Class Presentations 1/6\*

4 total exams (counting final) 4/6\*

Total 100%

Note: you cannot simply add your points together for each activity – a homework point and an exam point, for example, are not worth the same part of your grade.

\*Also note: there are 7 scores total, but only 6 count towards your grade. I will drop your lowest score. This means 1) you can bomb one test and still do fine in the class, or 2) if you are happy with your grade on the last day of class, you can skip the final (as a reward for consistently good work).

“Quizzes”

There are 10 Quizzes, most of them on Thursdays. The word quiz is in quotes because these are *really* homework assignments. You will know ahead of time what problems will be on the quiz – they are on the homework sheet handout. Quizzes are open notes (but closed book), so if you do the quiz problems ahead of time you can simply write the work and answers down - not much stress or worry. On the other hand, if you *don’t* do these problems ahead of time, the problems will be much more challenging. Quizzes will typically be fifteen minutes in length, so there isn’t a lot of time to work them out on quiz day.

Daily Homework

Additionally, there will be one or possibly two homework problems to do before class most class days. These are prep questions, exercises chosen to prepare you for the day’s material. You can compare your work with your classmates – and classmates *can help* you – but you must turn in your own written solutions to the problems.

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Participation

People learn more from doing something than from watching an instructor talk about it. To that end, most days will have class work – either worksheets (to do singly or in groups), or class discussions on the topics of the day. You are expected to be in class and participate in the day’s activities. **This is part of your grade!** This means two things: if you skip class your grade will tend to suffer, but if you come to class and try hard, your grade will be better for it.

Presentations

Along these lines, you will also be expected to *present solutions* to a few problems during the semester. These problems will be given on a handout; there will be a Canvas discussion board set up for problem requests. In the board, reserve a problem by making a post (subject = problem section/#) in the appropriate topic/date. If you reserve a problem, you are expected to present it. On the other hand, if you do not reserve any problems, you may have the option on presentation day of doing one if there aren’t enough people to fill up the time. Typically, four to six students can present on a given day.

There are TWELVE days scheduled for presentations throughout the semester; additionally, there are presentation options in the last week of class (and *possibly* room for one presentation on certain other class days). All told, you will be expected to present about THREE times in the semester; if you do you might earn extra credit.

Exams

There will be three in-class exams and a cumulative final, marked on the schedule, below. Note that the actual dates of the exams may vary slightly.

Extra Credit

In addition to extra credit from extra presentations (see above), there will be a Canvas discussion board topic listed for weekly homework/quiz preparation. If you post a question or an answer to a question on this board, you will receive extra credit (max +1 point per week can be earned). Your SUBJECT LINE should include the problem number, and your MESSAGE should include a restatement (full or partial) of the problem. This way, other students will be able to read and learn from the postings. *To be eligible for the extra credit, your posting must have content – a posting such as “I agree” or “That doesn’t seem right” does not earn any extra credit on homework.*

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Discussion Boards

There will be discussion boards set up for this course, via Canvas. There will be *three* discussion board areas:

1) Boards for homework problems are optional and can earn you extra credit.

2) A board for reserving presentation problems (see above).

3) General discussion boards are optional and offer no grade benefit. They are set up to allow you to ask your professor questions, or to offer a place for discussions not about the material (e.g., organizing study sessions, complaints about the book, etc.). These boards will be available to every student in the section.

All boards will be monitored after the fact. That is, you will post directly to the board, and I will monitor periodically throughout the week. Certain standards apply to postings:

• Postings are never anonymous

• Postings must not contain inappropriate (foul, rude, hostile) language

Violation of these rules may constitute academic misconduct (see below).

Attendance:

You are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance and Participation are part of your grade. When circumstances arise to prevent you from coming to class, you should let your instructor know (email is a great way to do so). Missing exams and/or paper deadlines will only be allowed in the most dire of circumstances and WILL require ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION as to the reason for the absence.

Academic Misconduct Policy

I expect you to complete the coursework for this course. Failure to complete an assignment will result in zero points awarded. Also see the following link:

http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf

Student Rights and Responsibilities

You have certain rights and responsibilities. For more information, see the following link: http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsCommBillRights.pdf