Course Information
College Algebra MATH120-07 Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. David A. Jackson

My office is in Ritter Hall 010. My office hours this semester will include from 10:00 until 10:50, from 1:10 until 2:00 and from 3:10 until 4:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I expect that I will often be in my office and available to answer questions at other times also. My office telephone number is 977-3633. The URL for my webpage is: http://math.slu.edu/˜jackson My primary e-mail address is: jacksoda@slu.edu


Computers and Graphing Calculators:
You will need a suitable graphing calculator and the Mathematics Department recommends and supports the TI-83 and the TI-84 for this course. This semester, I will have a TI-83 which connects to a view screen for classroom demonstrations. The TI-84 is often very like the TI-83. You will need to use your calculator for some questions on some quizzes and on some exams, but you should expect that you will NOT be allowed to use a calculator for most quiz and exam questions.

Homework: You are expected to READ this textbook. You should read each section in anticipation of class discussions.

In addition, I am preparing a list of assigned homework problems. Unless I state otherwise, I will not grade any of this written homework; it is intended as drill to prepare you for the quizzes and exams. A typical student should expect to spend approximately 6 hours a week outside of class working on mathematics. I very much encourage you to work homework problems and discuss them in groups. I recommend that you keep a large notebook for the exercises only, and that you keep it well organized so that you may readily ask questions about those exercises which give you difficulties. Always bring this notebook with you if you come to my office with a question.

In very many cases, it is NOT a wise use of classtime to answer individual homework questions during classtime. Often, what the student asking the question REALLY needs is for me to LOOK at THEIR work and find the mistake. This is more quickly and efficiently done in my office. A second type of common individual question can often be phrased as “How do I start?” This question asked by an individual student is again best answered on an individual basis. If a GROUP of students working together has this question, then the question and its answer almost always IS worthy of classtime. I WILL ALWAYS answer homework questions in class if the question is asked by a GROUP of students.

Quizzes: You should expect to have a brief quiz at the beginning of every class period. The three most important reasons for these quizzes are: 1) to insure that you prepare for class daily, 2) to motivate your prompt and faithful attendance, and 3) to provide you with feedback on your comprehension of the material. A typical quiz will cover both the current reading assignment and the material which was discussed the meeting before. Doing the assigned reading and exercises is your best preparation for the quizzes. I do NOT give make-up quizzes for ANY reason, but see the paragraphs below on reports and projects. Your scores on quizzes, reports and projects will be scaled to 125 points and will count as 1/5 of your course total.
**Grading Scale:** The grading scale for this course is a 90-80-70-60 grading scale. I do try to give the benefit of the doubt to students who show marked improvement during the semester, to students who do exceptionally well on the final exam and to students who are visibly working very hard to learn the material.

**Reports:** On the first day of class, I will pass out the assignments for three optional reports. For those who do write one of these reports, I will use the score or scores to replace one (or two or three) of the lowest quiz scores. The first of these reports is a mathematical autobiography. The second is a report on your personal learning style. The third is more competitive and is a critique of an assigned or unassigned homework problem. The first two reports are due very early in the semester. The third of these optional reports must be turned in by the last day of class.

**Projects:** I will be assigning a few projects for students to do outside of class. The credit for a project will count as two, three or four quizzes in your quiz total. At least two of these projects will be done as a group or a team.

**Group Work:** For some of the quizzes and projects, but NOT for any of the exams, you will be expected to work in groups of three, four or five students. All of the students in the group are expected to contribute to the work on the quiz or project and all members of the group will receive the same grade on the quiz or project. You are not required to stay in the same group for all of the group quizzes or projects, but you are not required to change groups either. If you are working well with other classmates on the homework, I would expect that those classmates will be your preferred teammates for group quizzes and projects.

**Exams:** There will be three hour exams each of which will count 100 points. Tentative dates for these are marked on the following calendar. The final exam will last two hours and will cover the entire course. It will be worth 200 points. The time and date for your final exam is set by the registrar and is announced in the semester’s schedule of classes. I have included this information at the bottom of the calendar. You should be careful that your travel arrangements at the end of the semester do not conflict with your final exams. In cases of illness and emergency, I do give make-up hour exams, but only to students who are doing passing work. Moreover, make-up exams are always harder than the original exams.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities will need to make prior arrangements through the University Disabilities Coordinator (Busch Student Center, Room 331, 977-8885) if they have special needs for exams or lectures.

**Cheating:** Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any exam or quiz. I am authorized and encouraged to give an F for the entire course to anyone who is caught cheating. As a standard procedure, I will prepare a written report of any incident of cheating or suspected cheating. Copies of this report will be sent to the student, the student’s advisor, to all pertinent department chairpersons and college deans and to any appropriate committees formed to deal with academic misconduct. The deans or these committees may take further action, including possible dismissal from Saint Louis University. If you need further details about the responsibilities and the procedures for instructors, department chairs, deans and committees, you should read Policy on Academic Honesty, which is published by the College of Arts and Sciences.