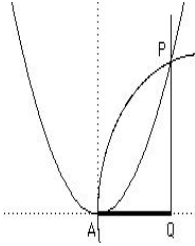




Math 54 - Section 3476
Beginning Algebra
MTWR 11-12:20 MSTC 151



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Math 12

Office Hours: MTWR 10-11, or by appointment.

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Course Description: Math 54, Beginning Algebra, is an introductory course that develops the real number system and introduces the use of variable expressions and equations in problem solving. The properties of the real numbers, square roots, arithmetic of variable expressions (including polynomials and algebraic fractions), solving linear equations and inequalities, factoring, and an introduction to the Cartesian coordinate system and the equations and graphs of linear equations in two variables are studied. Also, an introduction to Pythagorean Theorem and basic geometric formulas, and some dimensional analysis with modeling applications are involved.

Credit Hours: 4

Text(s): *Elementary Algebra*, 9th Edition

Author: Charles McKeague; **ISBN-13:** 978-0-8400-6421-7

Course Objectives:

Successful students will have studied and demonstrated their understanding of the following:

1. Integers, Rationals, and Irrationals and their position on the Real Number Line.
2. The commutative, associative, distributive, identity, inverse properties of operations on Reals.
3. The meaning of variables in algebraic expressions and in modeling applications.
4. Parsing algebraic expressions with integer exponents using the order of operations.
5. The use of properties of (in)equality to solve linear equations and inequalities.
6. Creating algebraic models for real world situations (word problems).
7. Polynomial arithmetic, including multiplying and factoring polynomials.
8. Factoring quadratic polynomials, especially quadratics with rational zeros.
9. Solving rational equations that reduce to linear or simple quadratic equations.
10. Roots and radicals including solving simple radical equations.
11. The Cartesian coordinate system and graphing linear solution sets, using slope and point-slope forms.
12. Use the method of completing the square to solve quadratic equations like $x^2 + 2px + q = 0$ where p and q are integers.

Grade Distribution:

Homework	10%
Notebook	10%
Quizzes	10%
Chapter Tests	50%
Final Exam	20%

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 90.00	A	70.00 - 79.99	C
80.00 - 89.99	B	60.00 - 69.99	D
.	.	≤ 59.99	F

Grades in the **C** range represent performance that **meets minimal expectations**; Grades in the **B** range represent performance that is **substantially better** than the minimal expectations; Grades in the **A** range represent work that is **excellent**. Strive to be excellent!

Note: At least a “C” grade is required in this course to progress to Math 40 or 44.

Course Policies:

- **Homework**

- Homework will be assigned regularly but there is no one available to read your work on a regular basis, so you will use the online homework system at WebAssign.net. To get started with WebAssign, go to WebAssign.net and click the “ENTER CLASS KEY” button. On the next page enter institution code dccd.cc.ca and 5168 2471 are the two four-digit numbers that constitute the class key.

- **Notebook**

- Taking notes is a critical component of attending lecture. Studies have shown that the act of taking hand written notes actually improves your ability to recall the information presented. Also, notes provide you with an effective way to review what you are learning. For these reasons, I am going to require you to take notes and I will be grading your notes during the lab periods. I will look at your notes and assess them for completeness based on has been covered in lecture. Things I will be looking for are:
 - * All steps of all examples
 - * Definitions and Theorems
 - * Using blank lines to organize your notes

Feel free to compare your notes with others or rewrite your notes with more explanations for yourself. I will grade your notes during lab and grade these as follows.

Code	Meaning	Score
N	No Notes	50%
A	Average Notes	85%
E	Excellent Notes	100%

- **Quizzes**

- There will be regular, short, graded quizzes. These are meant to provide a more frequent feedback on your work.

- **Calculators**

- You will not need a calculator in this course. While you are invited to experiment with calculators to confirm hand calculations, you will not need to use them. Calculators are not allowed during the exams.

- **Attendance and Absences**

- Attendance is expected and will be noted. If you're not there, you missed it. Excessive absences are cause for dismissal, as per the college catalog.
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials and to learn what was missed.

- **Cell Phones**

- Turn off your cell phone during class. You may not receive calls or messages in class.

Note: No makeup quizzes will be given. Only legitimate excuses (with a doctor's note, say) will allow a makeup exam.

Academic Honesty Policy

In addition to skills and knowledge, College of the Desert aims to teach students appropriate ethical and professional standards of conduct. The college catalog specifies that students are expected to "Integrate universally accepted values such as honesty, responsibility, respect, fairness, courage and compassion into judgments and decision-making." Also, "Students are expected to act in an honest and trustworthy manner. Work performed on examinations or other forms of evaluation must represent an individual's own work, knowledge and experience of the subject matter. Students are expected to follow the classroom rules established by each instructor." Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard.