

# Math 13: Precalculus

Spring 2011

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Bishop

**Phone:** 646-4173

**Office Hours:** 10 - 11 am or by appointment

**Office Location:** PS 111B

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**Text:** College Algebra & Trigonometry, Aufmann Barker and Nation, 6<sup>th</sup> edition

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion (C or better) of Intermediate Algebra or equivalent (Math 263 here at MPC)

**Advisory:** Completion of prerequisite within the last 2 years. You have got to know your Algebra to do well in this class and in Calculus. If you haven't had any Algebra in 10 years, this is not the class for you.

## Student Learning Outcomes

With successful completion of the class, you should be able to:

1. Recognize, analyze, and graph a variety of algebraic and transcendental functions (polynomial, absolute value, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric and inverse trigonometric).
2. Model real world applications and solve equations using the functions listed above.

## Calculator Policy

I strongly recommend that you use a graphing calculator for this course. I will be using a Texas Instruments TI84 on a projector screen in class for demonstrations. You may **not** use a graphing calculator that does symbolic manipulations (as in TI89 and TI92). Cell phones may not be used as calculators! You also may not share calculators during quizzes and tests

Grades will be based on the following:

Homework: Homework will be assigned every day (except on exam days). Because this class moves so quickly, it's vital that you do your homework the day it's assigned. I will spend about 20 minutes at the beginning of each class answering questions, but in order to get through the day's material, I won't be able to answer every question asked. If you find you have more questions than the allotted period, please go to the Math Learning Center (MLC) before class to get some of your questions answered. I will not collect this homework, but in order for you to succeed in the class, it is very important that you come to class prepared every day.

Exams (about 60%) We will have four exams this semester:

- Test 1: chapter 1 and chapter 2
- Test 2: chapter 2 and chapter 4
- Test 3: chapter 5
- Test 4: chapter 6

**Missed exam policy:** If you know you will not be present the day of the exam, you can make arrangements with me to take the exam early. **IMPORTANT:** If you miss an exam, you **MUST** contact me that day via email to make up the exam the next morning before class. You will only be allowed to do this once. Makeups will not be allowed after the class has taken the exam. At the end of the semester, I will replace your lowest test grade with your final exam grade if it helps your average.

Quizzes (about 20%) will be given during the last 10 to 15 minutes on the last day of class each week (unless there's a test). I will choose 2 or 3 problems similar to the previous week's homework. At the end of the semester I will drop your 2 lowest quizzes.

The Final Exam (about 20%) The Final Exam will cover material from the entire semester as well as the last week's material. This final exam cannot be dropped; all students must take the final exam to receive a passing grade.

There will be chances for optional extra credit. This usually takes the form of slightly more challenging bonus problems on exams.

You need to earn 90% for an A, 80% for a B, 70% for a C, and 60% for a D. If you ever have any questions about your grade, please email me or come to my office! All grades will be posted on my website, so please check it regularly

## Help!!!

If you find that you are falling behind in this course, it is extremely important to get caught up immediately. There are many FREE resources available to you. Here are a few of them:

- 1) Make an appointment with me
- 2) The Math Lab in PS 205 is open daily and Sunday afternoons. A schedule will be posted on the door. Check often for changes and additional hours.
- 3) Contact Marilyn Townsend in the Academic Support Center (646-4176) to get a tutor. As an MPC student you are eligible for two hours of free tutoring per week.

**The Bottom Line:** You are responsible for your education. If you need help, get it!

## Classroom Behavior and Policies:

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all class meetings. It is very important that you don't get behind. This class moves rapidly! If you plan to drop the class, it is your responsibility to clear it at the office. If you don't you may get an F for the course on your records.

**Respect:** It is very important that we respect each other and the learning process. I encourage you to ask questions during lecture. If you want a point clarified, please ask me, and not your neighbor. This distracts me and the students around you even if you are whispering. Some other behaviors that can disrupt others learning include (but are not limited to):

- Coming in late to class. I'd rather you come in late than not at all, but if class has already begun, please sit in the first available seat closest to the door.
- Packing up early and leaving during class, especially during the last few minutes of the class period. This distracts both me and your fellow students
- Texting during class. Please have your cell phone on 'silence' and stowed away out of eyesight.

**Cheating Policy:** If you are caught cheating on an exam, you will get a score of zero on that exam, which will get incorporated into your grade. You will also need to make an appointment with Carsbia Anderson before being allowed back in class.