

Online Beginning Algebra (Math 261) – Spring 2012

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 – 9:50
Tuesday, Thursday 12:00 – 12:50

Faculty Website: http://www.mpcfakulty.net/tracie_catania

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Prealgebra (Math 351 at MPC) or qualifying assessment score.

Required Course Materials: You need to purchase a MyMathLab access code for *Introductory Algebra for College Students*, 5th edition, by Robert Blitzer. There are several ways to obtain this code:

- You may purchase the stand-alone version of the MyMathLab packet (available at the MPC bookstore for about \$85)
- You may purchase a new spiral bound soft cover version of the textbook bundled with MyMathLab (available at the bookstore for about \$120)
- You may purchase an access code online using a major credit card at www.coursecompass.com. (about \$80)
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If you are unable to purchase the materials immediately or **if you're not sure this is the right course for you and you want to try out the course materials before purchasing**, you can gain temporary access for free for 17 days. After the 17 day period ends, you will need to purchase access in order to stay enrolled at the course website.

*Please be **absolutely certain** that you want to take this online class before purchasing an access code online or opening a MyMathLab packet purchased at the bookstore – there are **no returns, refunds, or exchanges!** Your access code will be valid for 12 months, so if you do not pass the course or if you drop the course, you will be able to re-take without buying a new access code.*

www.coursecompass.com Registration Information:

- Our **course ID** is **CATANIA67958**
- The **zip code** for MPC is 93940

Optional Materials: The printed version of the textbook is *optional*. Your MyMathLab access code allows you to view the entire textbook online (including multimedia content). You also have access to an online student solutions manual. Homework will be assigned online and will not correspond exactly with problems worked out in the solutions manual.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Evaluate and perform operations on algebraic expressions, and solve algebraic equations (linear, polynomial, rational, radical and quadratic).
2. Graph and interpret linear equations and inequalities
3. Set up and solve real world applications involving linear, quadratic, and rational expressions, and interpret their results.

Course Content: Beginning Algebra includes an introduction to basic algebraic principles, simple linear equations, positive and negative numbers, the four basic arithmetic operations using monomials and polynomials, literal equations, reading and constructing graphs, systems of linear equations and applications of principles to verbal problems, factoring, fractions and equations containing fractions, square roots and radicals, quadratic equations and ratios and proportions.

Calculator Policy: You may use a scientific calculator on all quizzes and tests in this course. Graphing calculators and calculators that do symbolic manipulations (such as the TI-89 or TI-93) will not be allowed on tests.

Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. Please contact me as soon as possible so we can complete the necessary arrangements through Supportive Services.

Student Information and Responsibilities: As an online student, your success strongly depends on your **organization, motivation, determination and commitment** to this course. You need to prioritize your schedule so that you have enough time to complete this course – plan on spending **at least 12 hours per week** on learning new material, working homework problems, and reviewing for quizzes and tests. The entire textbook is available to you online. Throughout the text there are links to short videos of people working examples. There are also videos of people working solutions to the problems on each chapter test. Familiarize yourself with these resources and make frequent use of them! For more information, refer to the “Working through the lessons” handout.

- **If you don't register at www.coursecompass.com website by Friday, February 3, you will be dropped from the course at MPC.**
- It is your responsibility to check your e-mail and the course website at least three times a week. This is the only way in which you will be able to remain involved in the course and find out about any changes or important announcements regarding the course. **If you are not active on the [coursecompass.com](http://www.coursecompass.com) website for one week and do not contact me to explain why, you may be dropped from the course.**
- If you need to drop this course, it is YOUR responsibility to complete the appropriate paperwork at MPC. This can be done either in person at the Admissions and Records office or online at www.mpc.edu. If you do not properly complete the drop process at MPC, you may receive a grade of “F” in the course.

- The new repeat policy for California Community Colleges states that beginning in Summer, 2012, students will not be allowed more than three enrollments in a class, no matter what grades were previously earned - including grades W (withdrawal) NP (no pass), D and F. After three enrollments in the same course at MPC, students will no longer be allowed further enrollments in that course. If the course is required, the student will need to attend another college to complete the required course.

Grades will be based on the following...

Homework (35%) will be assigned and submitted online for each section covered. It is crucial to your success in this online class that you do not procrastinate! Each homework assignment will have a prerequisite so that you must complete the previous assignment with a score of 75% before you can move on to the next section. Incorrect homework can be re-worked to improve your score until the closing date and can be reviewed at any time on your “grades” page. Closing dates for each assignment are listed on your course calendar. If you are unable to complete your homework by the due date, you may continue to work on it for an additional 24 hours, but you will only receive half credit for the problems worked after the initial deadline.

Quizzes (10%) At the end of each chapter you will take an online quiz. You may take each chapter quiz three times and only your highest grade will be counted. Quizzes are due on the day of the unit test at 6:00 pm. Don’t save quizzes for the last minute!

Unit Tests (40%) There will be four **on-campus** “Unit Tests” this summer. *You will be required to show a valid photo ID in order to take each exam.* **Unit 1 Test** covers chapters 1 through 3, **Unit 2 Test** covers chapters 4 and 5, **Unit 3 Test** covers chapters 6 and 7, and the **Unit 4 Test** covers chapters 8 and 9. Chapter 10 will be included on the comprehensive final exam. All unit tests will be closed book. Calculators are allowed (see calculator policy), but cell phones, PDA’s and translators are not allowed. All unit test dates are posted on the course calendar. **Please contact me *in advance* if you have a schedule conflict so we can arrange an alternate date.** Before each test I will post a list of review topics, a set of practice problems, and solutions to the practice problems on the course website.

Final Exam (15%) The final exam will be cumulative. You may bring one 8.5”x11” page of hand written notes on one side – no examples. *You will be required to show a valid photo ID.*

You need to earn a cumulative grade of 90% for an A, 80% for a B, 70% for a C, and 60% for a D. You may check your grade at any time on coursecompass.com by viewing your “grades” page. If you have any questions or concerns about your grade or about the course policies, please e-mail me or come to an office hour.