

MAC 1140 – PreCalculus Algebra
Course Syllabus
Spring Term, 2010

Course Description

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in MAC 1105 or appropriate score on an approved assessment. Algebra preparation for the calculus sequence. Topics include a symbolical, graphical, and numerical analysis of polynomials, exponential, logarithmic, power, and rational functions; matrices, sequences, induction, binomial theorem and conic sections. Applications emphasizing connections with other disciplines and with the real world will be included. Technology tools will be utilized in addition to analytical methods. Gordon Rule course. Minimum grade of C required if MAC 1140 is used to satisfy Gordon Rule and general education requirements. Credit not given for both MAC 1140 and MAC 1132 nor for MAC 1140 and MAC 1142 nor for MAC 1140 and MAC 1147.

Instructor

Name: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail address: _____

Student Engagement Hours and Location:

Monday _____
Tuesday _____
Wednesday _____
Thursday _____
Friday _____
Saturday _____

Required Materials

- 1) Precalculus A Unit Circle Approach, Ratti & McWaters
- 2) Your instructor may require a MyMathLab Student Access Kit:
 - If so, a MyMathLab Student Access Kit is included with a new book purchase in the Valencia bookstore for your Course Reference Number.
 - If you purchase a used text, or a new text from a source other than the Valencia bookstore, then you may need to purchase a MyMathLab student access kit as a standalone item. If so, please make sure the kit you purchase is for MyMathLab.

3) Calculator:

A graphing calculator that does not perform symbolic manipulations is required. The TI-84+ is used for in-class demonstrations and is particularly recommended. If you are receiving financial aid it may be possible to utilize some of your funds to purchase your calculator. Check with the financial aid office for more information.

Resources

- Your instructor is interested in your success in this class. Please ask questions regularly!
- Many students of algebra find it extremely helpful to form study groups with their classmates. This practice is highly recommended.
- The West Campus Math Center is in building 7, room 240. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday, and from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. There you will find Valencia math division staff, peer tutors, study rooms and other comfortable work areas for study group meetings, computer-based tools as available for your text, and support materials for checkout with your VCC identification card.
- Peer tutors in the Math Center are available for walk-in assistance, no appointment necessary. Peer tutors are available for individual appointments as scheduling and funding permit. Ask for details at the Welcome Desk in the Math Center. Tutors have been trained to use techniques that help you become an independent learner. They have been instructed to guide you through the problem solving process and utilize the materials you have available through your course. They may help you by asking open ended questions, walking you through examples in your text, or (hopefully on rare occasions) using pencil and paper to show you how to solve a problem similar to one you are working on. Since the tutors' goal is to help you become an independent learner, they will let you do the work as much as possible. The learning process requires a regular investment of your time, and patience is the key.

Class Policies

Attendance

- You are expected to attend every class meeting, unless an illness or emergency makes it impossible for you to do so.
- Absences are excused solely at the discretion of the instructor, who may require that you prove the existence of extenuating circumstances before excusing any absence(s).
- You are responsible for any information and/or assignments given during class, whether you are present or not.
- In-class activities can't be "made up." If you are absent on a day that an in-class activity occurs for credit or extra credit, your grade is likely to be adversely affected.

- You are expected to be in class on time, and to remain in class for the entire period unless permission to leave early has been granted by the instructor. It is disruptive to arrive or depart while class is in session.

Conduct

- You are encouraged to actively participate and ask pertinent questions during class. Courtesy will be observed at all times.
- Your attitude will greatly affect your ability to succeed in this course. It will also affect your classmates' attitudes should you choose to participate in class discussions. Always consider this carefully before you speak or act.
- Cell phones, pagers, or other devices that are audible are not permitted to be on during class. Unplug yourself and make the most of class time! Personal electronic devices disrupt your learning as well as the learning of other students.
- To create a good environment for learning, avoid sidebar conversations with other students while work is being done at the board, rude comments or remarks, raised voices or confrontational comments. Follow instructions given by your instructor, who serves as your classroom manager.
- If your actions in class are deemed by your instructor to be disruptive, you will be asked to leave class immediately. If you are ever asked to leave class, you **may** be permitted to return to future class meetings after consultation with your instructor outside of class. You may also be required to arrange a conference with another college official before attending class again.

Academic Honesty

- Honesty and integrity reward you in many ways, including avoidance of the grade of zero that is assigned to any student who cheats on any test or assignment.

Grading

- Partial credit on tests and assignments is sometimes given, when appropriate, solely at the discretion of the instructor.
- Grades will not be disclosed over the telephone or via e-mail, except through your Atlas account.
- You must meet with the instructor if you wish to discuss your grade.