

Fall 2020 – MATH 0315- BEGINNING ALGEBRA

INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Jody Dean, B.S., M.S.

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OFFICE HOURS: In Person > Wednesday 11:00 – 1:00, Friday 11:00 – 12:00

Virtual Hours > Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 **and by appointment**

PURPOSE OF COURSE: MATH 0315. BEGINNING ALGEBRA. (3:3:1) This course is designed for those students who need MATH 0320 and have not had one year of high school algebra. It includes properties of signed numbers, algebraic expressions, linear equations in one unknown and geometry. This course will not satisfy graduation requirements. This course is required if testing indicates a need. (From SPC catalog)

TEXTBOOK: *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra (4th Edition)* by Sullivan, Struve, and Mazzearella.

*hardcopy optional – **MyMathLab is required***

Course Objectives: Successful completion of this course should reflect mastery of the following objectives. Chapter and section numbers are indicated in parentheses.

1. Add, subtract, multiply and divide real numbers. (1.5)
2. Use the order of operations to simplify an expression. (1.7)
3. Simplify algebraic expressions. (1.8)
4. Solve linear equations. (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
5. Translate and solve word problems. (2.5, 2.6, 2.7)
6. Solve linear inequalities. (2.8)
7. Graph equations in two variables by the intercept method and the slope intercept method. (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)
8. Solve systems of equations by graphing, substitution, and elimination. (4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
9. Evaluate expressions using exponent rules. (5.2, 5.4)
10. Add, subtract, multiply and divide polynomials. (5.1, 5.3, 5.5)
11. Factor polynomials, (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5)
12. Solve quadratic equations by factoring. (6.6)

SUPPLIES: *Access to a computer with an internet connection is required for this course.* You will also need purchase MyMathLab, however the textbook is optional. You will need a graphing calculator, pencils, paper for note taking. The graphing calculator should be the equivalent of a TI-84 or lower. In other words, you will NOT be allowed to use a TI-89 or higher on an exam. You may NOT use a TI-Nspire on an exam. If you're not sure, ask me. I suggest some type of notebook to keep all your class notes and assignments together to make exam prep easier.

Texas Success Initiative (TSI): The Texas Success Initiative is a state program designed to ensure that all Texas institutions provide placement testing, personal advisement and appropriate instruction to students to enhance their opportunities for success in their college studies. All new students entering Texas colleges and universities are required to take a placement test prior to enrolling in college-level courses, unless exempt from testing under specified state standards (i.e., scores on ACT, SAT or TAKS). Testing will indicate whether a student possesses adequate basic college-level skills in reading, writing and mathematics necessary to begin an undergraduate program of study. (copied from the current SPC catalog)

ATTENDANCE: Attendance and effort are the most important activities for success in this course. If you are absent, you, alone, are responsible for getting the notes and doing your assignment before the next class. If you decide to stop coming to class, you must go through the drop procedure. If you stop attending or miss five classes you may be dropped with a grade of F at the discretion of the instructor. Please talk with me to verify if you have successfully dropped the course. Please read the "Drops and Withdrawals" policies on page 21 in the current catalog. Attendance will be checked in each class meeting via a sign-in sheet. It is your responsibility to make sure that you sign in each class. Do not call or email me later to tell me that you forgot to sign in. That is your responsibility, not mine. Your number of absences will be calculated by the number of times you do not sign in. Therefore, you have a lot to lose if you do not.

With all that being said, because of COVID-19 adjustments have to be made. So, I will be keeping track of attendance by the number of assignments you've completed and turned in. If you have not turned in 4 assignments in a row, without talking to me about it, you will be dropped from the course.

HOMEWORK & QUIZZES: Homework will be on-line using MyMathLab. Homework should be a daily occurrence. It is important to note that it is *impossible* to pass this course without the Homework. Additionally, after each section is covered in class, I will assign a set of homework suggested problems. These problems are not to be turned in, they are for your benefit only. Although these problems are not to be turned in, not doing them is a phenomenally bad idea!!! I recommend keeping all these assignments together in a notebook, in chronological order, along with your class notes. This will make preparing for exams much easier.

MyMathLab: You may take a homework assignment as many times as you would like. The best grade is the one I will record. Also, the more time you spend going over the homework, the greater the likelihood your grade will improve in the course.

Important Note: The homework problems assigned online via MyMathLab are required and are the only homework grades given in this class. If you do not have a personal computer or your computer is in serious need of an upgrade, there are many computer labs on the Reese Center campus, the Levelland campus, and the Lubbock Center which have very liberal hours.

GRADING: Your grade will be calculated as follows. A test average (TA) will be found by averaging all the exam grades with the final exam counting twice. Then, the test average will be averaged with your online quiz grade to give your overall average. That is:

$$(\text{Exam 1} + \text{Exam 2} + \text{Exam 3} + 2 * \text{Final Exam}) / 5 = \text{TA}$$

$$(\text{TA} * .60) + (\text{MML} * .40) = \text{Overall Average.}$$

There are **NO MAKE-UP** exams, quizzes or classroom exercises. Final grades will be assigned on the following scale: **A** 90%-100%; **B** 80%-89%; **C** 70%-79%; **D** 60%-69%; **F** below 60%

A grade of C (70) or better is required to advance to the next course. Although your grade in this course will not be used in calculating your GPA, your grade is used to determine academic status for financial aid. *This course and its grade will be recorded on your official transcript.*

EXAMINATIONS: There will be 3 major exams. Correct the exams as they are returned in partial preparation for the final exam. Exams **MAY NOT** be made up. If you are absent on the day an exam is given, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam. At the discretion of the instructor, the final exam grade **may** be used to replace one zero for a missed exam. Subsequent zeros will stand. *There is no such thing as missing the final exam.*

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: Be aware that class is over when I dismiss it, and not before. Any student who repeatedly disrupts my class will be asked to leave. Some of the things that I consider “disruptions” include, but are not limited to, packing your things before the end of class, ringing cell phones, talking while I am talking, making a late “entrance”, and so on. Texting while in class is also a disruption. **No tobacco products of any kind may be used at any time during class.** Chronic offenders will be banned from the classroom. It is phenomenally difficult to pass my class if you cannot attend on test days.

Do NOT use texting abbreviations in any correspondence with me.

Also all be aware that when we meet electronically, all of these same rules apply.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: While working on homework, students are allowed and even encouraged to work together. In this situation, two or more heads are almost always better than one. However, exams are different matter entirely. Each student is expected to work alone and with only the tools allowed for the exam. Any student caught cheating on an exam will receive a zero on that exam. A second offence will result in the student receiving an F for the course. Any student caught cheating on the final exam will receive an F for the course. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:

http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses.

Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

DISABILITY STATEMENT: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at, Reese Center Building 8, 806-716-4675.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.