

MS 100 – College Algebra
Spring 2020

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Office hours: MWF 1:00-2:00 and 3:00-4:00
Textbook: *Algebra and Trigonometry*, 9th edition by Ron Larson
Webpage: <http://www.comfsm.fm/~gearhart/MS100.html>

Course Description and Objectives: Course will cover equations, inequalities, graphs and functions, finding the zeros of polynomials and rational functions. This roughly corresponds to the first four chapters of the text. The course will emphasize a numerical, graphical, and analytical approach to understanding these concepts. The students will be expected to solve problems both by hand and using technology (i.e., calculator or computer), if appropriate.

Some things you will need:

- 1) A scientific calculator. I recommend the Sharp EL-531TG model sold at the bookstore.
- 2) A three-ring binder to organize your class handouts.
- 3) A pencil with a good eraser.

Grading Components: The grading for the class will consist of several components:

- Homework, quizzes, group work 10% of grade
- Tests (Probably 3) 70% of grade
- Final Exam 20% of grade

Homework: When homework is assigned, you are expected to make a reasonable attempt to complete all the problems. I will not usually grade all of the problems assigned. Instead, I will pick a few problems from an exercise set for grading. Homework accounts for 10% of your grade.

Tests: There will be several 50-minute tests. These tests will collectively account for 70% of your course grade.

Final Exam: There will be a comprehensive final exam that will account for 20% of your grade administered during the final exam period at the end of semester.

A **course average** will be computed and a letter grade assigned based on the following scale:

60% to 69% = “D” 70% to 79% = “C” 80% to 89% = “B” 90% to 100% = “A”

Here is how to compute your **course average**:

1. Add up all points earned on homework, quizzes, group work and divide this amount by the total points on homework, quizzes, group work. This is your “homework average”.
2. Add up all points earned on tests and divide this amount by the total points on tests. This is your “test average”.
3. Divide points earned on final exam by total points on final exam. This is your “final average”.

Course average = 10*(homework average) + 70*(test average) + 20*(final average)

Late Work: Late work will not usually be accepted. If you won't be in class the day an assignment is due you should hand it in beforehand or have a classmate bring it for you. If you have to miss class on the day a test or quiz is given, you please notify me **beforehand** to make arrangements for a makeup.

Attendance Policy:

You are allowed **six** absences. Arriving at class late counts as 1/3 absence (i.e. three times late equals one absence). Unless there are extreme circumstances you will be withdrawn from the class after your 7th absence.

Academic Honesty Policy: Cheating is wrong. The college handbook tells you what will happen if you get caught. Please check it out if you're thinking of cheating. Specifically, copying homework papers is a form of cheating.

Highly **Tentative** Schedule:

Week	Sections	Assessment
1	P1-P2,1.1	
2	1.2	
3	1.3	
4	1.4-1.5	
5	1.6-1.7	Test
6	2.1	
7	2.2	
8	2.3	Test
9	2.4-2.5	
10	2.6	
11	2.7	Test
12	3.1	
13	3.2	
14	3.4	
15	4.1	
16	4.2	Test

Last Day to Withdraw with a "W" is March 20.