**Math 110 – College Algebra**

 **Spring 2014**

**Syllabus**

**Instructor Information:**

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| Instructor: | Leslie Goldstein |
| CRN: | 30007 and 30009 |
| Office: | Jones 108 |
| Phone: | (970) 247-7161 |
| Webpage: | http://faculty.fortlewis.edu/GOLDSTEIN\_L/ |
| E-mail: | Goldstein\_l@fortlewis.edu |
| Office Hours: | T 11:30 – 12:30, WF 1:30 – 3:00 |
| My Algebra Alcove Hours: | W 11:30 – 12:30, F 11:00 – 1:00 |

**Course Description:**

This mathematics course is designed to help you enhance and improve your problem-solving abilities by developing your algebraic knowledge and skills. Responsibility for learning will be as much on the student as it is on the instructor. Because this course is designed to be useful to a broad range of students, this course may be different from mathematics courses you’ve taken in the past. In Math 110, we emphasize contextualized, “real world” problem-solving over manipulative exercises. In addition, you will be asked to write about and apply your mathematical understanding, not just present the “right answer.” To ensure that all students achieve the goals of the course, the Freshman Mathematics Program has arranged for a wide range of learning support activities. This course is a gtPathways course that meets the requirements to transfer MA-1 credit.  Specific gtPathways learning outcomes are listed at the end of this document.

**Challenging Your Placement**:

An exam to challenge your placement into Math 110 (and move up to Pre-Calculus) is available by contacting the Testing Center in Noble 287, via phone 382-6938 or email testingcenter@fortlewis.edu.

**For Students Planning On Taking Pre-Calculus, Math 121:**

In order to enroll in Pre-Cal, you must earn at least a B- in Math 110. If you do not earn a B- or better, then you have two options: you can repeat Math 110 and earn at least a B-, or you can enroll in Math 113, *Algebra for Calculus*. A C- in Math 113 will allow you to enroll in Pre-Cal.

**Required Materials:**

Calculator – A TI 83, TI 83 Plus, or TI 84 is required for this course.

Text – Explorations in College Algebra, 5th edition by Kime, Clark, and Michael **(available for rental from the FLC bookstore)**

Time outside of class – You will need to spend two to three hours outside of class for each class session.

**Class Time:**

We are here to do math. Sometimes you will actively listen to your instructor explain a topic and ask questions. Sometimes you will be asked to work on a problem, work in a group, present a problem at the board, etc. It is important to be active during all of these processes; ultimately you can only learn math by doing math.

**Homework:**

Homework will be picked up randomly throughout the term. Be prepared to turn in homework at the beginning of class. Late homework will NOT be accepted.

**WebWork:**

WebWork assignments are a required part of the homework grade for this course. WebWork is a free online mathematics homework system. The use of WebWork (i.e. login and problem completion) will be demonstrated in class. Your instructor will give you further information about WebWork at that time.

**Technical Writing:**

There will be three writing assignments during the semester. These assignments will help you learn how to write mathematically as well as further your understanding of mathematical content. Requirements to be discussed later.

**Portfolio:**

See Portfolio instruction sheet distributed separately.

**Exams:**

There will be four in-class exams and a final exam. Each exam will be cumulative. There are no make-up exams. Students cannot take any exam if he or she comes to class more than 30 minutes after the exam has started. The first four exams will be held during class time in your regular classroom. The final exam will be held on Monday, April 28th from 6:45p – 8:45p.

**Class Policies:**

* Attendance – We define attendance to be: in class on time, in class for the duration of the class period, prepared for the day's topic, participation in class. Students who miss class may not make up any homework, in-class activities, technical writing assignments, portfolio checks, or exams. **Students who miss more than 6 class periods during the term will receive an F**. There is no difference between an “excused” and an “unexcused” absence.

It is at the instructor's discretion to dis-enroll students who have missed even a single class by midnight Thursday of the first week of the term.

Students who know they must miss class due to *school sponsored activities* or *religious holidays* should discuss this matter with the instructor at least one week in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If appropriate arrangements have been made, these students will not receive an absence and will be allowed to make up work.

* Tardy Behavior/Leaving Class – Tardy arrivals and early departures will affect your attendance at your instructor’s discretion. An absence may be recorded if a student arrives late or leaves for any amount of time during the class period.
* Grade – Your final grade will be determined as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Portfolio | 5% | **Students in Math 190 should check their 190 syllabus for their actual 110 grade calculation.** |
| Homework/In-Class Activities/WebWork | 35% |
| Technical Writing Assignments | 10% |
| In-Class Exams | 35% |
| Final Exam | 15% |

Grading scale –

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 93 – 100 | A, | 90 – 92 | A-, | 88 – 89 | B+, | 83 – 87 | B, | 80 – 82 | B-,  | Etc. |

C- guarantee **–** If you attend and participate actively in each and every class, take each and every exam on the specified date, earn an average of 60% overall on exams, turn in on time each and every assignment, and turn in your portfolio as required, you are guaranteed a grade of no lower than C-. There are ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS to the conditions listed. Your instructor has complete discretion to determine whether or not your class participation is “active.”

* Incompletes – Incompletes will only be given under very special circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor.
* Withdrawal from Course– The last day to withdraw from FLC classes with a grade of “CW” (course withdrawal) is Friday, March 7, 2014. This is a college-wide deadline that is not negotiable.

To withdraw from this course, go to the Registrar’s Office, Room 160, Miller Student Services Building before the course withdrawal deadline. They will help you through the process. You do not need my signature on the course withdrawal request form.

Starting Fall 2013, students have a life-time limit of three individual course withdrawals from FLC courses. If you have withdrawn from classes before Fall 2013, these will not count towards your lifetime limit. Also, withdrawing entirely from a semester (all classes) does not count against your lifetime “CW” limit. Semester withdrawal is handled under a different policy and procedure. Please refer to the Academic Policies section of the Fort Lewis College *Catalog of Courses* for more information about course and semester withdrawal policies and procedures.

* Cell phones, other electronic devices – Cell phone, Ipods, or other electronic devices are NOT allowed in the classroom. They are to be turned off before class starts and not turned on again until class ends.
* Student Graders – A student grader may grade your homework assignments in this class. He or she has signed a confidentiality agreement. Graders are also not allowed to grade the work of students with whom they have a personal relationship. If you have concerns about a grader grading your work, please contact your instructor. If you ever have questions about a grade on an assignment, you must bring it to your instructor’s attention immediately upon having the assignment returned to you.

**Learning Support:**

* Office Hours – I hope you will visit during my office hours. Come individually or with friends. It’s a chance to talk about the course, assignments, exams, study strategies, or whatever else you’d like to discuss. You don’t have to have a problem to visit. If you find yourself having difficulty with a reading or assignment, I definitely want to see you; I may be able to help. If these office hours are impossible for you, please let me know so that we can make an appointment for another time.
* Algebra Alcove – The Algebra Alcove is located in Jones Hall 147. It is staffed with math instructors and trained peer tutors to answer your questions. The current schedule is posted on the door and on the FMP webpage. Please bring your FLC ID card with your 900 number. You need it to check in.
* Writing Center – The Writing Center is located in Jones Hall 105A. It is staffed with writing instructors and trained peer tutors. They provide assistance with reading and writing.
* Instructor Webpage – Your instructor’s webpage provides important resources for students including a link to the Freshman Math Program’s website.

**College Policies:**

* Disabilities **–** Students with disabilities have equal access and equal opportunity in this course.  If you require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements, you must register with Disability Services, 280 Noble Hall, 247-7459.  If you qualify for services, bring your letter of accommodation to me as soon as possible.
* Academic Honesty **–** Our course is an academic community that is bound together by the traditions and practice of scholarship. Honest, intellectual work – on examinations and on written assignments – is essential to the success of our own community of scholars. Using classmates’ responses to answer exam questions or assignments or disguising works written by others as your own undermines the trust and respect on which our course depends. The work in this course is challenging and will demand a good deal of each of you. I have every confidence that each of you can succeed. Doing your own work will enhance your sense of accomplishment. Academic honesty is taken very seriously. Any students caught cheating will automatically fail the course and be reported to the Academic Vice President for additional sanctions.
* Drugs & Alcohol **–** Increasing concern about the effects of the use and abuse of alcohol and other substances requires a reminder that attending class under the influence of alcohol or other substance is detrimental to academic achievement and effective classroom activities and will not be tolerated.

**Important Dates:**

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| --- | --- |
| Exam One | Wednesday, February 5th |
| Exam Two | Monday, February 17th  |
| **Check your mid-term grades** | **Monday, March 3rd**  |
| **Last day to drop with a W** | **Friday, March 7th (4:00 pm)** |
| Exam Three | Wednesday, March 12th  |
| Exam Four | Wednesday, April 9th  |
| **Final Exam** | **Monday, April 28th (6:45 – 8:45 pm)** |

**Awards:**

The faculty of the Freshman Math Program would like to honor the achievementof students who have distinguished themselves by their effort, positive attitude and commitment to learning. There is a list and description of awards given on the FMP website under *AWARDS*.

**Guaranteed Transfer (gtPathways) Course Criteria for Mathematics Courses (MA-1):**

The state-level goals for Mathematics (MA-1) courses are listed below.

* Select Relevant Data – Select data relevant to solving a problem.

**This will be addressed on an almost daily basis while solving word problems (e.g linear functions, exponential functions).**

* Interpret and Draw Inferences – Interpret and draw inferences from mathematical models such as formulas, graphs, and tables.

**This will be addressed on an almost daily basis while solving word problems (e.g. linear functions, regression).**

* Represent Mathematical Information – Represent mathematical information symbolically (formulas), visually (graphs), numerically (tables), and verbally (context).

**This will be addressed on an almost daily basis while solving abstract problems and word problems (e.g. linear functions, exponential functions).**

* Solve Problems – Use several methods, such as algebraic, geometric, and statistical reasoning, to solve problems.

**This will be addressed during problem solving activities (e.g. introduction to exponential equations, class lab).**

* Estimate and Verify Answers – Estimate and verify answers to mathematical problems in order to determine reasonableness, identify alternatives, and select optimal results.

**This will be addressed on an almost daily basis while solving abstract problems and word problems (e.g. regression, exponential functions).**

* Specifics and Abstract Principles – Demonstrate an ability to generalize from specific patterns of events and phenomena to more abstract principles, and to proceed from abstract principles to specific applications.

**This will be addressed each time a new type of function is presented (e.g. linear functions, exponential functions, power functions).**

* Recognize Limitations – Recognize that mathematical and statistical methods have limitations.

**This will be addressed during discussions covering regression using the graphing calculator.**

The Colorado gtPathways program calls for Mathematics courses to also meet the following competencies:

* Critical Thinking – The ability to examine issues and ideas and to identify good and bad reasoning in a variety of fields with differing assumptions, contents and methods. The goal of instruction in “critical thinking” is to help students become capable of critical and open-minded questioning and reasoning. An understanding of argument is central to critical thinking.

**This will be addressed during problem solving activities (e.g. introduction to linear systems, creating exponential equations from two points) as well as during exams.**

* Mathematics – The ability to use mathematical methods, reasoning, and strategies to investigate and solve problems.

**This will be addressed on an almost daily basis while solving abstract problems and word problems (e.g. linear vs. exponential).**