COLLEGE ALGEBRA – Math 143
3 CREDIT HOURS

Semester/year: Fall 2008
Instructor: Tom Atkin
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Office Location: Shields 207-A
Office Hours: 11:00 – 11:50 daily
Office Phone: 732-6807

Course Description: This course includes fundamental concepts of Algebra; equations and inequalities; functions and graphs; polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions; systems of equations and inequalities; conics; the Binomial Theorem. Credit hours are not granted in both MATH 143 and MATH 147.

Pre-requisites: MATH 108 with a grade of “C” or better or COMPASS placement test score of 62 or higher on the algebra portion or ACT Math score of 23 or higher.


Equipment: A graphing calculator is required. TI 83/84 will be used by the instructor.

Course Objectives: The student will have a strong understanding of the topics listed in the course content (below). This course will prepare students for Math 144, Math 157, Math 160, Math 253 and other courses which have a College Algebra pre-requisite.

Outcomes Assessment: Quizzes and homework will be used to assess mastery of course content. Midterm exams will be used to assess student achievement. Students will complete a comprehensive final that will measure student’s knowledge of the material that was covered throughout the semester. Student’s quizzes, homework, midterm exams and final exam will determine if the student has met the required grade of C or better, to fulfill their program requirement or progress to the next math course in their sequence. Extra credit will generally not be given.

Methods: Textbook study, lectures and explanations from instructor, class discussion and help from the instructor outside of class are all methods used. It is hoped that the students will also form study groups and work to help each other progress.

Grading: Final course grades will be based on:

- Homework 20%
- Quizzes 20%
- Midterm Exams (3) 30%
- Final Exam 30%

The grading scale will be:

- 90 – 100% A
- 80 – 89.9% B
- 70 – 79.9% C
- 60 – 69.9% D
- < 60% F

Homework: Homework will be assigned daily, though it will be collected randomly by rolling a die and choosing two numbers. If one of the numbers chosen comes up, the homework will be turned in. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure the homework is done correctly. Homework that is graded will be graded out of ten points. Six points will be given for completion of the assignment and four points will be given for randomly selected problems (usually two) that will be graded for correctness. Late homework will not be accepted (except in extenuating circumstances). If you know you will be missing a class, it would be wise to
hand in the assignment due the day before you leave, just in case.

**Quizzes:** As further incentive to do your homework regularly, there will be eight quizzes of ten questions each that will come directly from assigned homework problems. The quizzes will be given in class. The lowest score will be dropped. Quiz dates are: Sep 3, Sep 12, Oct 1, Oct 10, Oct 31, Nov 10, Dec 3, and Dec 12.

**Exams:** There are three midterm exams. All midterm exams will be taken in the testing center located on the second floor of the Meyerhoeffer building, and available in the center for two days. Students may take the exam at a convenient time for them during those two days. Late tests will not be given (except in extenuating circumstances). Test dates are: Sep 22, 23; Oct 22, 23; Nov 19, 20.

**Testing Center Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. & Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
*CSI ID required *You cannot begin a test after 8:30 p.m. M-TH or 4:00 p.m. F

The final exam will be comprehensive and will be given in the classroom on Tuesday, December 16, at noon.

**Free Advice:** You can expect me to be on time to class prepared to provide you with the tools to complete this course. I expect you to provide a learning environment for the others in the class. Disruptive behavior (cell phones, loud talking, hostility, etc.) will not be tolerated. This is a class where a lot of information is covered, and the material tends to build on itself. If you do not master the early material, it makes everything much more difficult later on. The best thing you can do to do well in the class is to religiously do your homework. Because of that, I will not do much of the homework in class. Between me and the Math Lab, there is someone who can assist you with your questions. Do not allow yourself to become hopelessly behind. Also, do not wait until December to find out what you need to do to get a “B” or a “C” or whatever. Be proactive! Act early and it will pay great dividends.

**Behavioral Policy:** Refer to school catalog (Pages 31-33).

**Attendance Policy:** Students who come to class regularly, are on time and prepared for class tend to do better in the course. I will not require attendance, but note that I do not accept late work in general. It is your responsibility to make arrangements with me when you miss class. In the case of an emergency or unforeseen illness, I will be much more able to work with you if I find out as soon as possible (through e-mail) what has happened to you.

**Drop Policy:** It is the student’s responsibility to drop the course.

During the first two weeks of the term, a student may drop a course or completely withdraw without its being recorded on the student's official transcript. After the first two weeks a “W” will be recorded in any course the student drops.

A student desiring to drop a course during the first two weeks of the term may do so on-line. In order to drop or completely withdraw after the first two weeks, the student must complete and submit a drop or complete withdrawal form to the Admissions and Records Office.

**NOTE:** No course may be dropped or withdrawn from after 75% of the course or twelve weeks of the term has elapsed, whichever is earlier.

**DVD’s:** The College Algebra course has three complete sets of DVDs. The DVDs are located in the library and may be checked out overnight.
**Help Sessions:** The math lab will post hours of operation starting at the beginning of the second week of school. These sessions are in the CSI math lab (Shields 207L).

**Course Evaluation:** To help instructors continually improve courses, students are strongly encouraged to complete anonymous evaluations which open two weeks before the end of the course and close the last day of class. Evaluations are available online at: http://evaluation.csi.edu.

**CSI E-mail:** Students must check their CSI e-mail accounts regularly to avoid missing important messages and deadlines. At the beginning of each semester free training sessions are offered to students who need help in using their accounts.

**Disabilities:** Any student with a documented disability may be eligible for related accommodations. To determine eligibility and secure services, students should contact the coordinator of Disability Services at their first opportunity after registration for a class. Student Disability Services is located on the second floor of the Taylor Building on the Twin Falls Campus. 208.732.6250 (voice) or 208.734.9929 (TTY), or e-mail Candida Mumford, cmumford@csi.edu.

**Course Content:** Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of the following processes and concepts:

- **Linear equations** (solve all types, simple to complex, model data and solve application problems)
- **Formulas** (solve problems using formulas, isolate a specified variable)
- **Quadratic equations** (solve by factoring, by taking square roots, by completing the square, using the quadratic formula, solve application problems)
- **Solve other types of equations** (polynomial, radical, absolute value, equations that are quadratic in form, equations with rational exponents)
- **Inequalities with one variable** (graph and solve linear, compound, absolute value, quadratic and rational inequalities)
- **Lines** (find slope, graph, write equation, model data, use idea of parallel and perpendicular)
- **Circles** (equation, center, radius, graph, convert equation to standard form)
- **Functions** (definition, domain, range, zeros, use vertical line test, evaluate, intervals for increasing and decreasing, odd, even, symmetry, model data)
- **Graph and analyze common functions** (quadratic, cubic, square root, absolute value, reciprocal, piece-wise, greatest integer)
- **Transformations and combinations of functions** (vertical shifts, horizontal shifts, reflections, vertical stretching and shrinking, add, subtract, multiply, divide, composition, inverse)
- **Quadratic functions** (graph, standard form, vertex, intercepts, model data, solve application problems)
- **Polynomial functions** (end behavior, leading coefficient test, graph, Remainder Theorem, Factor Theorem, find all zeros)
- **Rational functions** (vertical asymptotes, horizontal asymptotes, slant asymptotes, intercepts, graph, solve application problems)
- **Variations** (direct, inverse, joint, combined)
- **Conic sections** (analyze and graph ellipses, hyperbolas and parabolas, find vertices, foci, axis of symmetry, directrix, eccentricity, and asymptotes as applicable, model data and solve application problems)
- **Exponential functions and equations** (evaluate, graph, transform, solve equations, model data and solve application problems)
- **Logarithmic functions and equations** (log notation, properties of logs, evaluate, graph, solve log equations, change bases, model data and solve application problems)
r. **Systems of equations** (linear equations in two variables, linear equations in three variables, nonlinear equations in two variables, application problems)
s. **Systems of inequalities** (linear, nonlinear, linear programming)
t. **Binomial theorem** (expand binomial raised to a power, find one specified term)

These additional topics will be covered as time allows:

a. Cramer’s Rule to solve a system of linear equations
b. Partial fraction decomposition
c. Matrix operations and applications