PRE-ALGEBRA – Math 015 C21
3 CREDIT HOURS

Semester/year: Fall 2009
Instructor: Tom Atkin
Location: Shields 207-A
Office
Hours: 1:00 – 2:00 MWRF; 2:00 – 3:00 T
4:30 –
E-Mail Address: tatkin@csi.edu
Office Phone: 732-6807

Course Description: (From the CSI catalog) This course emphasizes pre-algebra concepts and is designed to equip students with skills necessary to be successful in Math 025 Beginning Algebra. A review of arithmetic operations with whole numbers, integers, and rational numbers integrating algebraic concepts such as vocabulary, simplifying variable expressions, solving linear equations, order of operations, exponents, radicals, ratios and percentages.

(Another viewpoint) Designed to improve arithmetic skills. Whole number operations, fractions, decimals, variable expressions, first degree equations, ratios, percentages, and integers are covered in this course. Also includes help to overcome anxiety and avoidance of math concepts. Math help lab available.

Pre-requisites: COMPASS placement test score of 22 or higher on the pre-algebra portion. You must have a COMPASS placement test score upon entering the course. If not, it must be completed by the end of the first week or you may be dropped from the course.


Course Objectives: The student will have a strong understanding of the topics listed in the below. This course will prepare students for Math 025.

1. Whole number operations, exponents, order of operations agreement and prime factoring with applications
2. Fractional operations, order of operations agreement and exponents with applications
3. Decimal operations with applications
4. Simplify variable expressions and solving equations
5. Working with Polynomials
6. Percentages with applications
7. Introduction to integers and square root operations

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 attendance, quizzes, 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exams (3)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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The grading scale will be:

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

Any student who has not met the required outcome to receive a letter grade of C or better, but honestly completing all work required, will be given an NC grade. Those students who have not completed all the required work or have failed to attend regularly and their grade average is below 70% will receive a grade of D or F. Grades of D, F or NC will have to repeat the course.

Homework: Homework will be assigned daily, though it will not be collected. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure the homework is done correctly.

Attendance: You are required to be in class. Attendance will be taken daily and students will receive 5 points toward their grade for being present. Any student that is asleep, disruptive, or spending time texting or otherwise wasting class time will not receive their points for the day.

There are 28 days of class this semester and the attendance grade will be based on 130 points. For a bonus 5 points, send me an e-mail before next class that tells me how many days you may miss and still receive full points for the attendance grade.

Quizzes: As incentive to do your homework regularly, there will be twelve quizzes of ten questions each that will come directly from assigned homework problems, except they will be in multiple choice format. The quizzes will be given in the testing center located on the second floor of the Meyerhoeffer building (GRM 230) on most Thursdays. Late quizzes will not be given (except in extenuating circumstances). The lowest two scores will be dropped. Quiz dates are: Aug 27, Sep 3, Sep 10, Sep 17, Oct 1, Oct 8, Oct 15, Oct 29, Nov 5, Nov 12, Dec 3, and Dec 10.

Exams: There are three midterm exams. All midterm exams will be taken in the testing center, 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). Each midterm will be worth 100 points. Test dates are: Sep 23, 24; Oct 21, 22; Nov 18, 19;

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 a comprehensive departmental final and will be given in the classroom on Wednesday, December 16, at 6 pm. The final exam must be taken to receive a passing grade in the course.

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. If you need extra help, it is available. 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 30-32).

**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.

**Videotapes:** Videotapes of the subject matter are available in several locations. Most may be checked out overnight. Front desk of the library, Math Lab (Shields 207), ADC Instruction lab (GRM 202) – These tapes are for in lab use only.

**Help Sessions:** Drop in tutoring is available at Academic Development Center GRM (202) M – F 8:00 – 4:30, or Math Lab (Shields 207). Contact Kat Powell kpowell@csi.edu.

**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 Darling. cdarling@csi.edu.