MATH 1113: Precalculus

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NOTICE: Please use the internal GeorgiaView course e-mail for general correspondence. I provide my external e-mail address for emergencies only. I cannot answer questions, accept assignments, or discuss grades via external e-mail or over the phone so please use it for emergencies only.

Students should log onto the class at least every day Monday through Friday to work on the course and get assignments and announcements. In addition, lessons, online quizzes, and tests must be completed according to the course schedule.

Note that the course is not self-paced.


Course Description: This course is designed to prepare students for calculus, physics, and related technical subjects. Topics include an intensive study of algebraic, trigonometric, and transcendental functions accompanied by analytic geometry.

General Information: The prerequisite for the course is four years of high school mathematics including two years of algebra. Though parts of this course will serve as a review of algebra skills from your earlier mathematics courses, we will cover a relatively large amount of material. If your algebra skills are weak or if you let yourself fall behind in your studies, the pace may seem rapid at times. In this case, you may need to spend considerably more than the minimum of nine hours (including the time of studying the lecture notes) per week of study for this course.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will have acquired knowledge of or become more proficient with:

- Types of Functions (Evaluation, Graphing, Root Finding, and Applications)
  - Linear and Quadratic Functions
  - Compositions of Functions
  - Polynomial and Rational Functions
  - Inverse Functions
  - Trigonometric Functions and their inverses
  - Exponential Functions and their inverses (Logarithmic Functions)
- Using a Graphing Calculator (TI – 83 / 84) as an aid to understanding
- Conic Sections, Polar Coordinates, and Parametric Equations (will be covered as time permits)

Calculator Information: It is currently the policy of the mathematics department at Georgia Southwestern that a TI-83/TI-83+/TI-84+ calculator is required for mathematics courses
numbered 2222 and below.

**Grading:** There will be eleven (11) online quizzes with each worth 10 points. You should check the Course Calendar to determine the time at which the quizzes will be made available. *Each quiz is only available on the dates as stated in the course calendar.* If you do not take the quiz on the dates listed in the calendar, you will receive a grade of zero for that quiz. You may use your books and notes but not any other person.

The lowest score of the quizzes will be dropped. *No make-up quiz will be allowed.*

The comprehensive online **final exam** (worth 20 points) will be made available on a day (to be determined for each semester). If you do not take the exam on the date(s) listed in the calendar, you will receive a grade of zero for the exam. *No make-up exam will be allowed.*

The problems in the quizzes and the exam will be similar to the assigned homework problems.

To determine your course grade, I will total your points (with the lowest score of the quizzes dropped) and convert the total to percentage.

A: 90%-100%, B: 80%-89%, C: 70%-79%, D: 60%-69%, F: below 59%

*The total possible points for this Precalculus course is 120. So, for example, if your total is 110, noting that 110/120=0.9167=91.67%, your course grade will be an “A”; if your total is 90, your course grade will be a “C”, since 90/120=0.75=75%.*

**There is NO extra credit work.**

The quiz or exam formats look like the following. You are usually given 5 to 9 questions for a quiz and you have forty minutes to work on that after you start the quiz. The final exam may include 10 to 18 questions, and the duration for the final exam is 100 minutes. Some questions will be multiple-choice, and for some others, you need to submit an answer based on your calculations.

A sample instruction is as follows. **The dates below are for illustration purpose, which do not mean the current dates.**

*Available starting: January 6, 2011 7:00 AM*
*Available until: January 7, 2011 3:00 PM*
*Duration: 40 minutes*

**Note:** your completion time is measured from when you click **Begin Assessment** to when you click **Finish**.

**Once the allotted time has expired, you will not be able to save any more questions.**

*Question delivery: All at once*

**Note:** questions can be answered in any order. You can revisit questions after you have answered them.

**Attempts allowed: 2**

Students are strongly encouraged to make use of the two attempts, especially, when you are not confident of some of your work. After your first attempt, you know what difficulty you have for the assessment. You may read the book or the lecture notes to re-work on the relevant stuffs.
before the second attempt. For each of your attempts, the questions may appear to be a little bit different. The grade of each assessment is the higher one of your two attempts.

For each assessment, you need to follow the instructions for the questions. If you are asked to round your answer to 3 decimal places, you need to round your answer to EXACTLY 3 decimal places. Otherwise you get 0 point for that question. Similar requirements apply when you are asked to find an integer or round your answer to 1 or 2 decimal places.

**Last Day to Withdraw From Class Without Penalty:** To Be Determined for each semester.

**Academic Misconduct:** Any violation of the GSW Policy on Academic Integrity will be treated very seriously. Any form of unauthorized assistance on graded work will result in a grade of zero and a report to the Academic Dean. A second offense will result a grade of F for the class and referral to the judicial system. You may find details of this policy in the GSW Bulletin online: http://www.gsw.edu/academics/bulletin/contents/reg.htm

**Homework and Reading:** Homework will be assigned in each (online) lecture. Although homework will not be collected, your homework will be evaluated by your performance on the quizzes. Reading the sections of the textbook corresponding to the assigned homework exercises is considered part of the homework assignment. You should make every effort to complete the homework assignments and seek help with problems you have not been able to solve.

As a general guideline, for a regular in-classroom session, you should spend a **MINIMUM** of approximately two hours working on the course material for each hour of class time. This means that for this online class, you should spend a **MINIMUM** of NINE hours per week (**FIFTEEN hours per week during the summer term**) working on the course material. Students who make an effort to keep up with the course progress are considerably more likely to perform well on quizzes and test(s).

**Disabilities:** A student requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must notify me within the first two weeks of the semester. If the student has not already done so, he or she must contact the Office of Disability Services in order to receive these accommodations and modifications. The Office of Disability Services is located in Sanford Hall, room 101, and the phone number is 229-931-2661.