MATH 980-010

ALGEBRA FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS
FALL 2017 SYLLABUS

IMPORTANT: WE WILL NOT HOLD CLASS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 21!

(OUR FIRST CLASS WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23)

INSTRUCTOR: John Nordstrom, Associate Instructor, Continuing Education

TIME & PLACE: MW 2:00-3:55 PM, Room 207 Browning Building

TEXT: All coursework will be available through Canvas. Our Canvas site is integrated with a program called MyOpenMath. The video and practice assignments, homework, and quizzes use this program. The videos and text were developed mainly by James Sousa of Phoenix Community College. Students can download and print the Explanation and Examples for every section.

OFFICE HOURS: Being adjunct faculty, I don't have a University office; not having an office, I don't have office hours. I generally try to be available both before and after class to answer any questions you have. I can also be reached by either of following methods (email is preferred):

Phone:	801-918-3974	(between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM)
Email:	nordstro@math.utah.edu	(anytime) *Note the missing 'm' in my name!*
Website:	Canvas	

PREREQUISITES: A math ACT Score of 14-17 is **strongly** recommended for this course. If your ACT score is below 14, please speak to me immediately!

A scientific calculator is required for the course. Students are allowed (as per instructor's restrictions) to use calculators provided they show clear/precise work on every problem on the midterms and the final exam in order to receive full credit for correct answers. No graphing calculators, cell phones or devices with Internet connectivity may be used on an exam. There are several calculators costing around $10 that will suffice for this class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course includes algebra topics such as: linear equations; graphing; systems of linear equations; linear inequalities and absolute value; exponential and logarithmic functions. By the end of this course you should be able to:

- solve linear equations, basic power equations, linear inequalities, and systems of linear equations in two variables;
- graph linear equations, linear inequalities, and systems of linear equations in two variables;
- solve and graph absolute value equations and inequalities;
- solve and graph exponential and logarithmic functions;
- solving applications related to the above topics.

The aim of this course is for you to develop confidence and comfort in dealing with mathematical concepts. This confidence happens when you develop concise

analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. These are the same skills that aid you in communicating and presenting detailed solutions to multi-faceted real-life challenges.

COURSE STRUCTURE: The class schedule lists this class as being a lecture course, and that is true as far as it goes. But like any mathematics course, this course will require your active participation to be effective. You will have to do much of the heavy lifting yourself, both in and out of class. You are expected to do the assigned homework, not for any points you might earn, but because:

> You *learn* math by *doing* math.

We will spend the first part of every class going over questions from the homework; if you haven't done the homework you won't be able to ask questions about it. Please don't be afraid to ask questions, either in or out of class. If there is something you do not understand, you can be assured there are other students who are also lost and will appreciate your question.

ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS: The study skills, reality checks, homework, and quizzes will all be completed in Canvas. The homework exercises are the required minimum for you to demonstrate the learning objectives of the course and the mastery of the course concepts. You are encouraged to work more homework exercises than those assigned. Homework questions are designed to reset after the 3rd attempt, so you have an unlimited amount of homework problems. Regular practice is essential in learning mathematics, because:

> You *learn* math by *doing* math.

Most students find the more homework they practice, the better they do on the exams. You should be prepared to spend at least two hours studying outside of the class for each hour you spend in class.

TESTING: There will be two midterms and a comprehensive final exam. These tests will be taken in class. You will have one hour to complete each of midterms and two hours to complete the final.

APPROXIMATE GRADING:

Study Skills:	5%
Reality Checks:	5%
Homework:	10%
Quizzes:	15%
Midterms:	40%
Comprehensive Final:	25%

Please note that this is the *approximate* weight given to each of the components you will be graded on. In particular, I typically give more weight to your final if you do particularly well on it, though I also reserve the right to give it more weight if you do very poorly on it. Because I believe in second chances I will weigh the better of your two midterms more heavily than the other. You must receive at least a 50% or higher on the final exam to receive a grade of 'C' or better. With all that being said, my grading scale is the standard one as follows:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
>93%	90-93%	87-90%	83-87%	80-83%	77-80%	73-77%	70-73%	67-70%	63-67%	60-63%	<60%

Note that circumstances may dictate that we deviate from either the planned number of tests, or the grading and scoring guidelines as described. Any changes

will be announced and discussed in class.

GETTING HELP: You may find that you need some extra help beyond what the class can provide. There are several options available. Online "eTutoring" is available by clicking the link in the left menu of Canvas. The math department has a free tutoring center located on campus in the T. Benny Rushing Mathematics Center (www.math.utah.edu/ugrad/tutoring.html). For more personalized attention, the ASUU Tutoring Center (www.sa.utah.edu/tutoring) provides both individual and group tutoring at reasonable rates.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Because this is a college course, I expect you to behave as college students (i.e., as adults). That means no disruptive behavior and no cheating. That means being self-motivated enough to do the work without being forced to. If you act like mature adults I will treat you like mature adults.

All students are expected to maintain adult and professional behavior in the classroom. Please respect your classmates by not engaging in distracting behavior, such as:

- talking with your friends (even about math);
- using your phone for <u>anything</u> (voice, text, camera, games, …);
- playing with other toys (electronic or otherwise);
- eating and drinking (particularly noisy food);
- talking with your friends (there is a reason this bullet is repeated).

More importantly, students are prohibited by the University of Utah Student Code from cheating, as well as committing acts of fraud, vandalism, or theft.

Part of my responsibilities is maintaining a classroom conductive to learning and enforcing responsible classroom behavior. If I have to, I will take disciplinary actions, beginning with verbal warnings and ultimately progressing to dismissal from this class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the University's Student Behavior Committee.

ACCOMMODATION: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

If you have any special needs or requests, please let me know. There is a good chance that we find a solution that meets your needs.

COURSE OUTLINE: The following is a brief outline of the topics that will be covered in this class.

Module 1	Linear Equations	
Module 2	Linear Inequalities, Absolute Value Equations, and Functions	
Midterm 1		
Module 3	Linear Equations with Two Variables	
Module 4	Systems of Linear Equations	
Midterm 2		
Module 5	Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	
Final		

IMPORTANT DATES: Be sure to consult the official Academic Calendar for other important dates and to make sure there are no changes from these dates.

First class ....Wednesday, August 23

Last day to add/drop ....Friday, September 1

Labor Day (no class)..............................Monday, September 4

Fall Break (no class) ....October 9 – 13

Last day to withdraw ....Friday, October 20

Last class..Wednesday, December 6

EXAM SCHEDULE: Please note that the dates for both midterms are tentative. There is a good chance that those dates may change slightly. The final date and time is according to the University's Final Exam Schedule.

Midterm 1 ....Wednesday, September 27

Midterm 2 ....Wednesday, November 8

Final (comprehensive) ....Monday, December 11
(from 1:00 – 3:00 PM)