MATH 980-005
ALGEBRA FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS
SPRING 2019 SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: John Nordstrom, Associate Instructor, Continuing Education

TIME & PLACE: TH 12:25 – 2:20 PM, Room 25 Crocker Science Center (CSC 25)

TEXT: All coursework will be available through Canvas. Our Canvas site is integrated with a program called MyOpenMath. The video and practice assignments, homework, reviews and quizzes all 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 homework, reality checks, reviews, 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. |
| **IN CLASS WORK:** | I expect students to be engaged and active participants during every class. To help encourage that I typically will ask several *daily questions* to assess how well students are learning the material. These questions might be asked at the beginning of class to see how well students are understanding the homework previously given. They might also be asked throughout the lecture, to gauge if students are paying attention. Most questions will be graded only on effort, but some may be graded for correctness as well. While this component of your grade is fairly small, it can make the difference between passing and failing, so it is to your benefit to regularly show up to 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:** | **Reviews:** 5%
Reality Checks: 3%
Homework: 10%
Quizzes: 15%
Daily Questions: 7%
Midterms: 35%
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. 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 (http://www.math.utah.edu/undergrad/mathcenter.php). For more personalized attention, the ASUU Tutoring Center (www.sa.utah.edu/tutoring) provides both individual and group tutoring at reasonable rates.

RESPONSIBILITIES: All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. You have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, collusion, fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know you are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

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).

While I have tried to be as thorough as possible with the syllabus, situations can change once the semester begins. The syllabus is not a legally binding contract. As instructor, I reserve the right to change any portion of the syllabus provided you are given enough notice.

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. Please let me know, discreetly, if you have any sort of phobia, anxiety disorder, TBI, PTSD, C-PTSD, or other challenge that would cause psychological harm to be called on in class. While I want students to feel mentally stretched during class, especially while working on problems as a large group, I definitely don't want to cause anyone harm. So, please tell me if that is the case for you and I will confidentially accommodate your request.

CLASSROOM SOCIAL EQUITY:
I strive to be ethical, kind, fair, inclusive, and respectful in my classroom and expect students to behave similarly. Please let me know if there is a name you prefer to be called by. Likewise, please inform me of whichever pronouns you prefer me to use for you. I will put great effort into honoring your request and ask that you correct me if I do happen to make a mistake.

I would greatly appreciate if you would let me know if I inadvertently offend you in any way. I will take corrective action immediately. While I want this semester to be a challenging semester, I do not want it to be a painful semester for anyone.

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 ....Tuesday, January 8

Last day to add/drop ....Friday, January 18

Spring Break (no class)...................................March 10 – 17

Last day to withdraw ....Friday, March 8

Thanksgiving (no class)...................................Thursday, November 22

Last class..Tuesday, April 23

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 are according to the University's Final Exam Schedule.

Midterm 1 ....Thursday, February 14

Midterm 2 ....Thursday, April 4

Final (comprehensive) ....Thursday, April 25, 2019 (from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM)