

Central Methodist University Fall 2009

College Algebra

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1-1:50am via Satellite

Instructor: Robert Sulman (Math & Science 3rd floor Stedman Hall)

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Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 12:00-1:00pm, Tues. & Thur. 3:45-4:45 or by appointment

Text: College Algebra by Robert Blitzer (4th Edition; Prentice Hall)

Course Objectives: To develop an understanding of the fundamental ideas and techniques of algebra as well as fundamental concepts involving functions. This will serve as a foundation in the future study of Calculus, among other subjects.

Topics Covered (Subject to Change): The Real Numbers, Linear Equations and Applications, Linear and Absolute-Value Inequalities, The Notion of a Function, Linear Functions, Simultaneous Linear Equations, Polynomials, Polynomial Products and Quotients, Polynomial Factoring Techniques, Applications, Rational Expressions, Complex Fractions, Rational Equations, Applications, Roots and Radical Expressions, Radical Equations, Quadratic Functions, Completing the Square, The Quadratic Formula, Quadratic Type Equations, Non-Linear Inequalities, Composition of Functions, Inverses, Exponential Functions, Logarithmic Functions, Properties of Logarithms, The Natural Base e , Polynomial Graphing Techniques, Rational Function Graphing Techniques, Conics Sections, Intro to Sequences and Series.

General Education Competencies: 6 and 7

CMU Mission: Central Methodist University prepares students to make a difference in the world by emphasizing academic and professional excellence, ethical leadership and social responsibility.

CMU Values, Goals and Creed: This can be found on page 13 of the University Catalog.

The **Grade** for this course will be based on the following:

Four 1-Hour Tests (Each worth 20%)

2-Hour Cumulative Final Exam (Worth 20%)

If your final exam score is higher than your lowest 1-hour test score, the final will be weighted 40% and this lowest test will be dropped.

Homework will be assigned regularly. Although not graded, these examples will (together with text material) be the basis for each of the five tests. Selected solutions (explained) will be provided by the instructor.

The pace of this course is brisk. It is important to stay up to date on the material. Otherwise, you may be overwhelmed in trying to catch up before a test. Practice frequently by doing exercises as well as read the text thoroughly, as the class lectures will not always cover certain details offered in the text. A guideline worth following is 3 hours of out-of-class study for every hour of class.

As this is a **distance learning environment**, it is especially important to address difficulties you may encounter with this material. Use any resources (tutors) available at your school, as well as the hour reserved for this course on Tuesdays and Thursdays (to study). If possible, form study groups.

Attendance is expected. In borderline final grade cases, this may be a deciding factor. Since CMU does not offer half-grades, there is more at stake in such instances. For more information, see the CLAS catalog (pp. 31-32)

Final Grade:

90% or above: A

80-89: B

70-79: C

60-69: D (Below 60: F)

Academic Integrity: Any violation of academic honesty/integrity will result in action ranging from a score of zero on a given item to an F in the course. Judgements (which include a documentation of violation on student record) will be made on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. For further information, see the University's Academic Honesty Policy in the CLAS catalog (pp. 38-39) or CGES catalog (pp. 31-32).

Accommodation for Disability: Accommodation for disability will be made provided instructor is made aware of this need with proper documentation. Contact the Learning and Teaching Center at CMU. For more information, see the University's Course Catalog.