Math 29   Sierra College
Precalculus   Fall, 2018

Instructor

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Prerequisite
Completion of Math 27 (Trigonometry) with a grade of C or better or placement by matriculation assessment process.

Text and Calculator
Precalculus: Mathematics for Calculus, Seventh Edition, by Stewart, Redlin and Watson. The Sierra College bookstore has a custom published version of the text. It is identical to the textbook listed, but it is missing the last chapter. Since we are not covering the last chapter in the text and the book was cheaper for students if we got it custom published, we decided to make only the custom published version available in the bookstore. You will also need a scientific calculator for this course. You may not use a graphing calculator or the calculator on your cell phone on any quiz or test.

Course Outcomes and Objectives
By the end of the course students should be able to:
1. Simplify expressions and solve equations of the following types: polynomial, rational, radical, absolute value, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric.
2. Interpret and construct graphs of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, and conic sections.
3. Translate, model, and solve applied problems utilizing polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric functions, and matrix algebra.
4. Logically present clear, complete, accurate, and sufficiently detailed solutions to communicate reasoning and to demonstrate the method of solving problems.
5. Apply techniques from linear algebra and combinatorics.

The complete list of the course objectives is available online. See http://math.sierracollege.edu/coursedescriptions/course.asp/.

Homework
Homework problems will be assigned each class meeting to be completed by the next class meeting. Each Thursday I will collect some or all of the homework assigned for the week. Each set of collected homework is worth 5 points. Homework assignments will not be graded but will receive 0-5 points depending on completeness. Be sure to copy the original problems onto your paper from the book and show all of your work on the paper neatly. I do not accept late homework.

General homework study includes more than just working the assigned problems. The following types of activities are suggested:
     a.   Review your notes from class.
     b.   Read the appropriate pages of the text.
     c.   Work with other classmates practicing problems. Feel free to do more than the problems assigned if you feel that you need extra practice.

Quizzes
A short quiz will be given on many Thursdays. Each quiz will be worth 15 points. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. If you are absent for a quiz, this is the quiz that will be dropped. There are NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.

Tests
There will be four tests worth 100 points each. Your lowest test score will be dropped. If you know that you will not be able to attend class on a test day, let me know in advance and we may be able to make alternate arrangements for you to take the test. If you are absent for a test and you don't contact me or we are unable to make alternate arrangements to take the test, this will be the low test score that will be dropped. There are NO MAKE-UP TESTS.

The final exam will be worth about 200 points. Of course, the final exam cannot be dropped. The final exam will be on the last day of class Thursday, December 6.

Grading
Your grade will be based on your accumulated point total from homework, quizzes, tests, and the final exam. The following percentages will be used.

90%	-	100%	A
80%	-	89%	B
70%	-	79%	C
60%	-	69%	D
0%	-	59%	F

Attendance
You should plan to attend each class meeting. Although I do not give points for attendance, you put yourself at a definite disadvantage by missing class. If you are absent, be certain to find out from a classmate exactly what was covered in class that day, get a copy of that person's notes, get a copy of any handouts that were given that day, and make sure that you find out whether any announcements of which you should be aware were made. If you are absent, I encourage you to check Canvas or my website for the current homework assignment, but remember that you are responsible for any assignment given during class even if they haven't been updated.

Although I have a right to drop any student who has accumulated excessive absences for this class (4 class meetings), it is not my responsibility do so. If you decide that you need to withdraw from this class, remember that it is your responsibility to do so.

Class Conduct
While I hope the atmosphere of the class is fairly relaxed, I take the learning of mathematics seriously. Please be respectful of everyone's right to a positive learning environment. Excessive talking at inappropriate times or about non-course related topics is both discourteous and distracting to students nearby. Often during presentation of new material, I include problems for you to try at your desk. My expectation is that everyone will actively participate and try the problems. Attempting the problems in class gives you an opportunity to check your understanding and ask questions before leaving class. During the times that you're working on these problems, I encourage you to talk with someone near you about the problems.

If you are late for class, please enter the classroom as unobtrusively as possible. Finally, text messaging during class is inappropriate and cell phones should be turned to silent before class.

Academic Honesty
Academic honesty is expected; cheating will not be tolerated. If a student is caught cheating, at a minimum the student should expect to receive a zero for the particular assignment/test. (If a student is caught cheating on a test or a quiz, the test or quiz may not be dropped.) See the current Sierra College Catalog for the college's policy on academic dishonesty.

Resources
If there is something you simply don't understand, take an active role in finding out what you need to know. If there is not time in class to ask your questions, be sure to make use of my office hours. My office and office hours are

listed on the front of this syllabus. Don't hesitate to come by and ask questions. Drop-in tutoring is available through the Math Center in room V-329 —Monday, Wednesday 8 am-8 pm; Tuesday, Thursday 8 am-6 pm; Friday 8 am-4 pm, and Saturday 8 am-1 pm. Tutoring is also available through the Tutor Center in room LR 402. Make use of these resources!

Title IX
As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Under Title IX as a member of the college community, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual or domestic violence, and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination about which I become aware. If you would like to share information of that nature to a confidential counseling employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, please let me know and I can get you in contact with them.