
MA109 (College Algebra) - Fall 2009

Syllabus

Time and Place (Lectures): [click here](#)

Instructors: [click here](#)

If you contact your instructor by e-mail, be sure to place "MA109 Help" in the subject box. An e-mail without this subject heading may be deleted by spam filters.

Textbook: *College Algebra* (4th edition), by J. Stewart, L. Redlin and S. Watson. We use a customized version of the original book, which is specifically published for the University of Kentucky and can be purchased at any UK bookstore.

Lecture Notes: *MA 109 Lecture Notes*, by A. Corso. These notes (also called activity sheets) have been written as a complement/guide to the textbook in order to assist you throughout the course. They can be purchased at any UK bookstore.

These notes are designed to be handy to consult both while learning the material and while reviewing for the midterms. By using these notes in class, you should spend little time taking notes while devoting more time to understanding the material explained during the lectures. In addition, we also strongly encourage you to bring to class a notebook for notes, as the space provided in the activity sheets might not always be large enough for your needs.

It is almost needless to say (yet we stress it!) that the notes are by no means designed as a substitute for attending class! In fact, you might find the notes hard to use if you have not been to class, since they have been crafted to promote interaction between the instructor and the students during class.

Goals: In this course we will cover the great majority of the topics from the first seven chapters (Chapters P through 6) of the text by Stewart, Redlin and Watson. Your main goal is to learn the material well enough so that you can use the tools of College Algebra in an applied context, such as Business or the Social Sciences. It is also essential that you learn well the techniques discussed in this course if you plan on taking (and want to succeed in) the subsequent course, MA123 (Elementary Calculus and

its Applications).

It is virtually impossible to learn Mathematics by only listening to an instructor. To understand what this means, consider the impossibility of learning to play basketball by listening to someone describe how to play it. You will not learn the material in this course by listening to the lectures, and thinking to yourself - "Yes, I understand that." You must work the problems and make mistakes before you will begin to learn. The instructor's task is that of an assistant to help you learn as much of the material as you desire. In this course it will not be sufficient to memorize an algorithm for doing specific types of problems. You will be expected to understand the material well enough so that you are able to do problems similar to, but not identical to, the ones we work in class.

Grading: The course grade will be based on three midterm exams, a final exam, a homework score, and a participation grade. Each midterm counts 100 points, the final counts 100 points, homework counts 75 points, and participation counts 25 points. Your instructor will provide you with more information about the participation points. Thus you can earn a total of 500 points for the course. Your final grade for the course will be based on the total points you have earned as follows:

- A: 450-500
- B: 400-449
- C: 350-399
- D: 300-349
- E: 0-299

Exams: As we already mentioned, each exam is worth 100 points. You must bring a photo ID to each exam. You may use a graphing calculator during the exams, but NO calculator with a Computer Algebra System (CAS) or a QWERTY keyboard is permitted. Absolutely no cell phone use during an exam is allowed. The final exam will be comprehensive. Dates for the exams are as follows:

- Exam 1: 23 September 2009 (Wednesday), 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. - Location
- Exam 2: 21 October 2009 (Wednesday), 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. - Location
- Exam 3: 18 November 2009 (Wednesday), 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. - Location
- Final Exam: 16 December 2009 (Wednesday), 8:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. - Location

Time Conflicts: If you have a time conflict with the regularly scheduled exam, you may

be permitted to take an alternate exam. Information about alternate exams may be found [here](#).

Homework: We have selected homework problems from our text to help guide you through the relevant material contained in each section that will be covered in the course. This is the complete list of assigned problems. You are responsible for knowing how to work all the problems in this list, as the exams will be based on these problems.

In general, you will not turn in the solutions to these problems. Instead, we have an online homework system. You will submit answers to the problems on the online homework system. The system will grade the problems and record the grades. The problems from the online system are very similar to the great majority of the problems suggested in the above list.

The online homework system, WebClass, is found at the link <https://www.mathclass.org>. **DO NOT CLICK REGISTER IN WHS.** Your account is linked to your UK active directory account. You can login to the online homework system using your UK Active Directory user name and password. This is the same user name and password that you use to access other systems including myuk.uky.edu and exchange.uky.edu. Thus, if your user name is skova01, you will enter ad\skova01 (MAKE SURE YOU USE \, not /) as the user name and then the password for your Active Directory account. Note that mathclass.org will require you to include the prefix ad\ while other sites on campus may not. For more detailed instructions about WHS, read the following [document](#).

After you login, select the web homework link. This will take you to your MA109 class where you do your homework. Each student has an individual, Personal Version of the web-based homework assignments to work and submit. You may attempt a problem as many times as you like. Only your final (and hopefully correct!) answer will be recorded for your homework grade. Additional attempts at a problem need not be made in the same online session, so you can reattempt the problem after getting help from your instructor or The Study. If you submit the correct answer to a problem before the due date, you receive full credit for the problem. If the answer you submit is not correct, the first thing to check is the syntax you used to submit the answer. A typo will obviously result in an incorrect answer. If you check this carefully, and your answer is still incorrect, go back and rework the problem. It is often better to move on and work other problems first, since it is quite easy to make the same error over and over. If after a couple of attempts, you do not get a correct answer, then try to get help from your instructor, an instructor in the Mathskeller, a friend, or a tutor in The Study.

Although answers to the problems have been checked, it is still possible that a few errors remain in the system.

The homework due dates are listed in the course schedule. Homework assignments are always due at 5:00 pm, but there is usually a grace period until 11:59 pm. If there is a computer problem prior to 5:00 pm on the due date, an extension will be granted to all students. If there is a computer problem after 5:00 pm on a due date, you will not receive credit for any problems that were not answered prior to 5:00 pm.

There will be many homework sets throughout the semester. Make sure that you check the assignment list at www.mathclass.org regularly for new assignments. The Entrance Exam and Review Problem Sets do not count as homework assignments, but you still need to complete them.

Because the homework assignments are posted early and they are completed online, it is very rare that a student would be permitted to make up a homework assignment. If you are going to be gone because of a university excused absence, you should complete the homework assignment before you leave. If you have a documented family emergency or a documented illness that prevented you from having computer access, bring the documentation to your instructor during his or her office hours. They will discuss the options for a make-up assignment with you.

Your homework grade is based on the percentage of correct problems out of, approximately, 90% of the online problems. Hence even if you do not get all problems correct, you can still earn a grade of 75 on the homework score. To estimate your current homework score use the following formula:

$$75 * (\# \text{ of HW Questions Correctly Answered}) / (0.9 * \text{Total } \# \text{ of HW Questions}).$$

It is possible to earn a few bonus points if you answer more than 90% of the questions correctly.

Be sure to keep a record of your homework scores. Print a copy of your scores each time you work on an assignment.

Attendance and Class Participation: Students are expected to attend each lecture and to be active in class discussion and activities: This amounts to 5% of your grade (or 25 points). If you are late to class, if you leave class early, if you are disruptive, if you are sleeping, reading the newspaper, working on other homework, or for any other reason are not actively engaged in activities related to math class, you will not

receive credit for participating in class that day. Your instructor will provide you with more information about your attendance score.

Academic Honesty: Cheating or plagiarism is a serious offense and it will not be tolerated. It will be thoroughly investigated, and it might lead to failure in the course or even to expulsion from the university. See Student Rights and Responsibilities (Sections 6.3.1 and 6.3.2) for information on cheating, plagiarism, and penalties. A summary of recent changes to rules on cheating can be found at the Academic Ombud website. **It's not worth it, so don't do it.**

Services in The Mathskeller and The Study: The Mathskeller is located in CB 063 in the basement of the classroom building. Many instructors from the Department of Mathematics will hold office hours in the Mathskeller. In addition, limited drop-in tutoring is available. The Mathskeller is open from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday (except academic holidays) during the semester. Additional information is available at www.mathskeller.org.

Academic Enhancement, located in The Study (in the Kirwan-Blanding Dorm Complex -- more precisely, on the third floor of the Commons) offers a variety of services to undergraduate students. Free, drop-in peer tutoring is available for MA 108R, 109, 123, and 113, in addition to other subjects such as chemistry, physics, biology, organic chemistry, anthropology, sociology, political science, history, statistics, Spanish, French, Italian, and more! Peer Tutors are experienced undergraduate UK students who have successfully completed these courses. Tutoring is available Sunday 6 pm - 10 pm, and Monday-Thursday 3 pm - 10 pm.

Academic Enhancement also offers free individual academic consultations. Schedule a free appointment with a learning specialist for strategies on how to become a more effective student. For more information on all the services available in The Study and for a complete tutoring schedule, visit www.uky.edu/UGS/Study. or call 257-1356.

Personal Safety Reminder for Evening Sessions: Please be mindful of your personal safety in traveling to or from class after dark. It is recommended that students enrolled in evening sections do not walk to or from class alone. Anyone desiring an escort may arrange for one through the UK Campus Escort Program, SAFECATS. For information call 323-FREE or 323-3733. Students are also encouraged to choose the "Cat's Path" routes when traversing campus at night. These are sidewalks clearly marked with a blue and white paw print logo and are routes frequently used and

accessible to major campus destinations. Though these paths are not designed to replace personal safety efforts, such as traveling in groups and remaining alert, there is increased police presence on these pathways.

MA109 (College Algebra) - Fall 2009 (Tentative) Course Schedule

The following is a list of important dates for the Fall 2009 semester:

- 26 August 2009 (Wednesday) - First Day of Classes
- 1 September 2009 (Tuesday) - Last Day to Add a Class
- 7 September 2009 (Monday) - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- 16 September 2009 (Wednesday) - Last Day to Drop a Class without Receiving a Grade
- 23 September 2009 (Wednesday) - Exam 1 - 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.
- 21 October 2009 (Wednesday) - Exam 2 - 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.
- 6 November 2009 (Friday) - Last Day to Withdraw from a Class
- 18 November 2009 (Wednesday) - Exam 3 - 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.
- 25-27 November 2009 (Wednesday-Saturday) - Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL
- 11 December 2009 (Friday) - Last Day of Classes
- 16 December 2009 (Wednesday) - FINAL EXAM 8:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.

The weekly schedule follows:

Week 1: 26 August 2009 - 30 August 2009

- Introduction
- Activity 1
- Friday, 28 August 2009- Online Entrance Exam Due

Week 2: 31 August 2009 - 6 September 2009

- 1 September 2009 (Tuesday) - Last Day to Add a Class
- Activity 2
- Activity 3
- Wednesday, 2 September 2009- Homework 1 Due
- Friday, 4 September 2009- Homework 2 Due

Week 3: 7 September 2009 - 13 September 2009

- 7 September 2009 (Monday) - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- Activity 4
- Activity 5
- Wednesday, 9 September 2009- Homework 3 Due
- Friday, 11 September 2009- Homework 4 Due

Week 4: 14 September 2009 - 20 September 2009

- 16 September 2009 (Wednesday) - Last Day to Drop a Class without Receiving a Grade
- Activity 6
- Activity 7
- Wednesday, 16 September 2009- Homework 5 Due
- Friday, 18 September 2009- Homework 6 Due

Week 5: 21 September 2009 - 27 September 2009

- Monday, 21 September 2009- Homework 7 Due
- EXAM 1 - 23 September 2009 (Wednesday) 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. Rooms
- Activity 8

Week 6: 28 September 2009 - 4 October 2009

- Activity 9
- Start Activity 10
- Wednesday, 30 September 2009- Homework 8 Due
- Friday, 2 October 2009- Homework 9 Due
- Start working on Homework 10

Week 7: 5 October 2009 - 11 October 2009

- Finish Activity 10
- Activity 11
- Friday, 9 October 2009- Homework 10 Due

Week 8: 12 October 2009 - 18 October 2009

- Activity 12
- Activity 13
- Wednesday, 14 October 2009- Homework 11 Due
- Friday, 16 October 2009- Homework 12 Due

Week 9: 19 October 2009 - 25 October 2009

- Monday, 19 October 2009- Homework 13 Due
- EXAM 2 - 21 October 2009 (Wednesday) 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. Rooms
- Activity 14

Week 10: 26 October 2009 - 1 November 2009

- Activity 15
- Activity 16
- Wednesday, 28 October 2009- Homework 14 Due
- Friday, 30 October 2009- Homework 15 Due

Week 11: 2 November 2009 - 8 November 2009

- 6 November 2009 (Friday) - Last Day to Withdraw from a Class
- Activity 17
- Activity 18
- Wednesday, 4 November 2009- Homework 16 Due
- Friday, 6 November 2009- Homework 17 Due

Week 12: 9 November 2009 - 15 November 2009

- Activity 19
- Activity 20
- Wednesday, 11 November 2009- Homework 18 Due
- Friday, 13 November 2009- Homework 19 Due

Week 13: 16 November 2009 - 22 November 2009

- Monday, 16 November 2009- Homework 20 Due
- EXAM 3 - 18 November 2009 (Wednesday) 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. Rooms
- Activity 22

Week 14: 23 November 2009 - 29 November 2009

- Activity 23
- Tuesday, 24 November 2009- Homework 22 Due
- 25-27 November 2009 (Wednesday-Saturday) - Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

Week 15: 30 November 2009 - 6 December 2009

- Activity 24
- Activity 25
- Wednesday, 2 December 2009- Homework 23 Due
- Friday, 4 December 2009- Homework 24 Due

Week 16: 7 December 2009 - 13 December 2009

- Activity 26
- Wednesday, 9 December 2009- Homework 25 Due
- Friday, 11 December 2009- Homework 26 Due

Week 17 (Finals Week): 14 December 2009 - 20 December 2009

- FINAL EXAM - 16 December 2009 (Wednesday) 8:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.

Rooms