

MA 109 – College Algebra (Sections 016, 017)

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Office Hours: M 2-3 (POT 706), TR 1-2 (Mathskeller), and by appointment

Course Meetings: TR 9:30–10:45 a.m. CB 341 (section 016)
TR 11:00–12:15 a.m. CB 341 (section 017)

Course Website: ma109.org
This document and the course website together constitute the syllabus for sections 016 and 017 of MA 109.

Email Policy

Please contact me by email rather than through Canvas. I will generally reply to emails within 24 hours on days during which class is in session, and within 48 hours anytime else.

Canvas

All grades will be recorded in Canvas. Students are encouraged to check Canvas regularly. Canvas will serve as the primary tool for announcements, information, and documents.

Required Materials

The textbook for the course is *College Algebra* by Jay Abramson and other contributors at OpenStax. The book is freely available online; a link is provided on the course website and in Canvas.

Grading

The 12% “Active Participation” component of the final grade will be subdivided as follows:

- 4% – Reading Quizzes: There will be an online reading quiz due at 8:30 a.m. before each class period. The quizzes will be taken through Canvas, and the section(s) of the book covered by the reading quiz will be specified in the instructions for that particular quiz.
- 4% – WeBWorK: There will regularly be online homework assignments through WeBWorK, usually due on Tuesdays and Fridays. Specific due dates are listed on the course website and in WeBWorK, which can be accessed through Canvas.
- 4% – In-Class Participation: Points will be awarded each day for attendance, a quiz, or some other in-class activity.

Attendance

Attendance is required and will factor into the in-class participation component of your grade. If you need to miss a class, let me know by email and send me the appropriate documentation as soon as possible. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to arrange to make up any graded activities.

Electronics

The use of electronic devices during class, with the exception of calculators, is strictly prohibited. Cell phones, laptops, tablets, and other devices should be silenced and kept out of sight. Anyone seen using such a device will be asked to put it away, and repeated violations of this policy may result in a penalty to the in-class participation score for that day.

Tips for Success

- Math is not a spectator sport; the only way of really learning math is by doing math.
- When you read the textbook, read with pencil and paper in hand. Don't just passively follow along; work through the example problems yourself.
- Work with other students outside of class, both on the homework and to review the material. Form study groups with students in your section or find students from other sections in the Mathskeller.
- If you are struggling with the material, ask for help. Visit my office hours or the Mathskeller.
- Ask questions in class. If you're wondering about something, chances are someone else has the exact same question.
- Doing math often feels like a struggle. This is perfectly normal; it means that you're learning!