

Syllabus for MA110 Analytic Geometry and Trigonometry

Text: Precalculus by Swokowski and Cole 10th edition

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This class should cover the material in chapters 1-7 of the text. There may not be time to cover every topic in each of these chapters, but all the basic ideas should be touched on. Students usually have been exposed to the ideas in chapters 1 and 2, so, depending on the class, the instructor may find they can cover these chapters more quickly than the remaining chapters.

Each instructor can organize this class as they see fit. Typically grades are computed where a certain percentage is assigned to tests, homework and/or quizzes, the final and recitation. A sample of such percentages could be 15 percent for each of homework and/or quizzes, the final and for the recitation and then assign 55 percent to the tests. Two to three tests during the semester are recommended. At least one of these tests should be given before the midterm. An early test is a good way to warn students if they need to modify the way they are studying. The homework and quizzes can also serve to keep students involved with the material.

The majority of the students who enroll in MA110 are in their first year at UK. So they may not be aware that the pace and demands at the University level are different from those at the highschool level. Helping them make this adjustment should certainly be one of the objectives of the instructors in this course.

Occasionally incorporating ideas not in the text but which are closely related to the text material helps keep interest up. Examples would be the use of the trigonometric functions to describe motion in the plane (chapters 6 and 7) and then introducing vectors in three dimensional space (section 7.3).