

Math 90 Elementary Algebra Spring 2020
Section 7876 (MW 12:30-1:20PM, TTh 12:30-1:45PM **Room 100-126**)

<http://www.grossmont.edu/people/jeff-waller>

This course syllabus represents a **legal contract**. By enrolling in and staying in this course, you agree to all of the terms and conditions in this syllabus and any expansions on it made in class.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE FREE TUTORING AVAILABLE!!

Instructor: Mr. Jeff Waller, jeff.waller@gcccd.edu

Office Hrs: M: 6:30-6:55AM

Office phone: 619-644-7248

W: 6:30-6:55AM, 11AM-12:25PM

Office: 100-107E (modular village in lot 5 south of parking structure)

TTh: 7:30-7:55AM, 11:30-12:25PM

Can stay after class if needed.

Prerequisite: A **strong** background in Arithmetic and Pre-Algebra.

Other times by appointment.

Objectives: Math 90 is designed to provide the student with the necessary algebra skills to be successful in Intermediate Algebra. The course will concentrate on the vocabulary of algebra, translation from English to algebra, and evaluation of literal expressions. It will also introduce the basic properties of the integers, rational numbers, and real numbers: polynomials, rational expressions, integral exponents and radicals; simple functions and relations, graphing, solving linear equations and inequalities, linear systems, and quadratic equations. This course is offered Pass/No Pass only.

Textbooks: *OpenStax Elementary Algebra*, 2017 by Lynn Marecek. Information about free PDF of textbook or how to get a hardcopy for under \$50 at <https://openstax.org/details/books/elementary-algebra>.

Calculator: A scientific calculator with a square root $\sqrt{\quad}$ key is required in class. A scientific calculator will run you about \$15. Calculators CANNOT be shared during exams or quizzes so please bring your own calculator. Be aware that there may be portions of quizzes/exams where calculators cannot be used. You can check out calculators from the limited loan desk in the library on a first come, first serve basis. If you plan on going on to Math 110 and possibly Math 160 or Math 176 and beyond, then you will want to consider buying a TI-83 or 84 Plus graphing calculator now to start getting used to it. (You can RENT these calculators at <http://rentcalculators.org/>.)



Grading: Several quizzes, 5 tests, groupwork, HW, and a comprehensive final.

- **Test Average:** 50% or 55%
- **Quiz and HW Average:** 20% or 25%
- **Final Exam:** 20% or 25% (Thursday, May 28, 11:35AM-1:35PM)
Percentages determined after final exam graded.
Percentage scheme resulting in highest grade will be used.
Scale: 0-69 NP, 70-100 P



Explanation of policies:

- ◆ **HW:** Homework will be collected and spot-checked. Try to have homework done two classes after the date lectured. (So if I lecture through Section 2.1 on Wednesday, then try to have all HW through 2.1 done by the following Monday.) Turn in HW anytime up to the day of the test. After that, still turn it in, but it will be late.
- If you turn the HW in before the review day for the test (**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**), I will have time to give a more thorough look at it, write notes, and get it back to you so you can use it as a study tool.
- If you turn the HW in on the review day or day of the test, it won't be considered late, but I won't have time to make notes and suggestions on it, and you'll get it back **eventually**.
- You won't get a letter grade or percentage on the HW. Instead, I'll say **OK** (meaning full credit), **CORRECT** (meaning you got half credit and can get full credit if you correct your mistakes), **REDO** (meaning you got no credit and need to redo problems to get credit), or **NO CREDIT** (meaning you weren't given credit and have no way to get any credit. Normally used if you blatantly copied from someone or something.)
- Homework corrections are due on the day of the final exam. Focus on keeping up with new HW.
- Learn how to staple. Staple assignments so that I can still see your work and any other information (section numbers, your name, ...). **Do NOT staple HW together with quiz or test corrections.**
- Work turned in **must** be your own. Don't copy from someone else, the back of the book, or the solutions manual.
- However, it is ok and a good idea to work on HW with classmates or to ask tutors or your instructor for help.
- You should **SHOW all work**, use a pencil, WRITE LEGIBLY, and don't turn in paper with the jagged edge.
- **Write the section of HW and assignment at the top of the page.** (ex: **Ch 1**, page 196: 1311-1345 all)

Drop this course now if you plan on not doing the HW for this class. **Seriously.** Go away. Now.

- **Attendance:** Any absence for a test or quiz must be explained to me **immediately**. The instructor *may drop* any student from the course who is **marked absent for at least 3 classes**. However, it is **YOUR** responsibility to drop this course if you no longer wish to be enrolled. Explain to me any circumstances that will cause you to be frequently late. If you are late, come in as quietly as possible.
- **Reviews for tests:** Practice tests with answer keys will be given out. The class before a test will include a review.
- **Make-up policy:** Make-up tests and allowances for late HW will be allowed **ONLY** under *special* circumstances. You **MUST** contact me **before or soon after (meaning within 24 hours)** a missed test or quiz. Missed quiz grades will be replaced by the test grade provided that you contact me in time.
- **Test and quiz policies:** No tests or quizzes will be dropped. No notes, books, cell phones, etc... allowed on tests. I reserve the right to change where students are seated in the room on the day of a quiz or test if necessary.
- **Test corrections:** Tests and quizzes can be corrected and turned back in for more points. Test and quiz corrections are **due by the day of the next test**. If you correct quizzes on time and then make a higher grade on the corresponding test, the test grade will either take the place of the lowest corrected quiz grade or proportionally average out with that quiz grade, based on how well you did on corrections. Corrections for tests and quizzes work this way:
 - ◆ **Do NOT change any of the original work.** Correct anything you lost points for on another sheet of paper.
 - ◆ I grade the heck out of corrections. If I get any inkling of an idea that you merely copied answers from someone else **you won't get any points back**. If you get caught copying corrections, you won't be allowed to correct any other tests or quizzes for the semester.
 - ◆ If you make an 80 or more, you will get up to 5 points back, up to a max of 100, if you do **ALL** of the corrections and get them **ALL** right. So, if you get an 87, you can get UP TO a 92. But with a 98, you can get UP TO a 100.
 - ◆ If you make less than an 80, you can get up to 1 point back for every 4 points you missed if you do **ALL** of the corrections and get them **ALL** right. For example, if you got a 64, you missed 36 points, $36/4=9$, you could get UP TO 9 points back, making your grade a 73. **You can correct EVERY test, quiz, and HW assignment ONCE.**

Assistance: I will be available during office hours or by appointment. Forming study groups to work on HW and prepare for tests is encouraged, but ALL HW submitted should be your own. For information on FREE tutoring, contact the **Math Study Center** (<http://www.grossmont.edu/academics/programs-departments/math/study-center>) room 70-112 Tech Mall at **644-7706**, or the **Tutoring Center** (www.grossmont.edu/student-services/tutoring/tutoring-center.aspx) room 70-202 Tech Mall at **644-7387**.

Academic honesty: Cheating and plagiarism (using as one's own ideas writings, materials, or images of someone else without acknowledgment or permission) can result in any one of a variety of sanctions. Such penalties may range from an adjusted grade on the particular exam, paper, project, or assignment (all of which may lead to a failing grade in the course) to, under certain conditions, suspension or expulsion from a class, program or the college. If you copy homework, you **will not get any credit** for that assignment. At the least, **a grade of zero** will be given for any exam, quiz, or HW on which you are caught cheating. At the most, you will **fail the course** and a report on the incident will be filed with student services. If you copy corrections to quizzes or tests from another student, then you will not get credit for those corrections and you will not be able to make corrections to **ANY** other tests or quizzes. For further clarification and information on these issues, please consult with me or contact the office of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs (644-7600).

Miscellaneous, good-to-know items:

- I will be videotaping lectures and posting them to youtube. There is a link to those videos on my website.
- Passing this course requires **understanding** the material covered. Doing HW and other assignments help you get practice with the concepts, but your grade is most affected by how well you understand the material.
- Getting behind on HW is just about the **WORST** thing a student can allow to happen. **SEE ME** if you do.
- **EXPECT** to work hard on homework and to study hard for exams and quizzes.
- **EXPECT** to seek help from tutors, from fellow students, and/or from me.
- Do HW in **PENCIL**. Bring paper, pencil, your calculator, and your textbook to class every day.
- **Disrupting the class in any way WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Disrupting means creating or contributing to an environment which hinders the instructor's ability to teach or your fellow students' ability to learn.

- **Disrespecting anyone in this class in any way WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Disrespect includes making comments about or actively making someone uncomfortable due to their race, ethnicity, accent, appearance, intelligence, sexual orientation, gender identity, education, socioeconomic status and/or religion; speaking while I or another student is speaking; always coming to class late; and making non-constructive comments during lecture.
- **DON'T** be shy about coming to my office hours or asking for other times to meet if my office hours conflict with your schedule. I am totally dedicated to your success in this course.
- **The maximum number of times a student may enroll in the same credit course is three times.** A student can petition to take it a fourth time. Military withdrawals and withdrawals that occur due to fire or flood do not count in terms of repetition restrictions. This rule does not contain a grandfather clause. If a student has already reached the maximum number of course repetitions, they cannot take it again in this district.
- ***WARNING*:** Many math students suffer from the “**What the WHAT?**” syndrome, characterized by a complete lack of understanding of material presented in a given class period. To prevent that from happening:
 1. **READ AHEAD** so that you will be familiar with terms/procedures when you see them in class. Crazy, huh?
 2. **ORGANIZE** your study time - plan on studying and doing HW for **at least** an average of **12 hours/week.**
 3. **STUDY PROPERLY.** Rewrite notes, read the textbook, do your homework, organize a study group, take advantage of the free tutoring, make a list of questions to ask in the next class period ...
 4. **PAY FULL ATTENTION** in class. This does not mean merely copying everything I say and write on the board. It means at least making an attempt to wrap your brain around the concepts we discuss in class.

Disability Information: “Students with disabilities who may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to notify the instructor and to contact the Accessibility Resource Center (A.R.C.) early in the semester so that reasonable accommodations may be implemented as soon as possible. Students may contact the A.R.C. in person in Room 60-120 or by phone at **619.644.7112** or **619.644.7119** (TTY for deaf).”

Required statement about Tutoring Services:

- Students requiring additional help or resources to achieve the stated learning objectives of the courses taken in mathematics are referred to the Math Study Center in room 70-112 or the Tutoring Center in room 70-202.
- Students in Math 103 and above do NOT need to enroll in Math 198. Enrollment in your math course will put you into the system for the MSC.
- All Supervised Tutoring courses are non-credit/non-fee. However, when a student registers for a supervised tutoring course, and has no other classes, the student will be charged the usual health fee.

Math 90 Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to

- solve linear, quadratic rational and radical equations, linear systems and linear inequalities.
- simplify and evaluate algebraic expressions.
- interpret linear equations numerically, graphically and symbolically and be able to transition between them.
- apply appropriate algebraic methods to solve word problems.

