

MAT 102 AA – College Algebra
Course Syllabus
Siena Heights University
Fall 2017

Text: College Algebra Essentials, 3rd ed. By J. W. Coburn and J. P. Coffelt

Handheld: A TI-Nspire, TI-Nspire cx

Grading Scale		Grade Apportionment	
90+%	A	Quizzes	30%
80-89%	B	Homework	20%
70-79%	C		
60-69%	D	Chapter Tests and Final Exam	50%
0-59%	E		

***Amendments*:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed.

Method of Evaluation

- **Hour Exams** – Approx. five of them, TBA, 50 minutes in length. Makeups will only be given in very rare instances and must be arranged in advance. Sickness, unfortunately, is not rare, but may be taken into account on a case-by-case basis. Advance notice is required (email has a time stamp...use it!).
- **Homework** – Homework will be collected and graded on effort, completion, and whether it was corrected in class when a problem was addressed. When answers are available in the back of the book, it is also expected that the homework be corrected (answers must match work). Late homework will lose partial credit unless *prior permission* is given by the professor (due to an excused activity, etc.). NO late work is accepted after the chapter test of the chapter in which it was assigned.
- **Quizzes** –Frequent quizzes on chapter subject matter will be given. They will be similar in nature to the homework. **No makeup quizzes will be given.** To allow for the bad day/missed class, the lowest quiz score will be dropped. Quizzes missed due to Siena activities may be excused if *prior arrangements* are made between student and professor.
- **Final Exam** – See Final Exam schedule

Daily Homework:

Homework problems will be assigned for each section that we cover. Quizzes and Hour Exams will be based closely on the assigned homework problems.

Course Description:

MAT 102 will provide a core of mathematics knowledge and skills that will prepare students for further college level mathematics: understanding and applying principles for solving equations; representations of functions in verbal, symbolic, numeric, and graphic forms; properties of functions; and applying functions in modeling real-world problems. Technology tools will enable exploration of ideas and provide several approaches for problem solving.

Course Methods:

This course is an opportunity for you to obtain a solid background in doing mathematics in the fundamental areas of arithmetic, algebra, and data analysis. Problems will be approached from numeric, symbolic, and graphical perspectives [**Liberal Arts Outcome 1**]. Writing, graphing calculators and other forms of technology will be essential tools for conducting explorations and reporting the results effectively [**Liberal Arts Outcomes 5 and 6**]. You will be learning in small groups, as a whole class, and individually. The overall goal is to enable you to construct a connected network of mathematical ideas and problem solving procedures that makes sense to you.

On Getting Through the Course

Come to class prepared: review notes, skim book, do problems.

- **USE YOUR GRAPHING CALCULATOR** whenever possible (even if not assigned). Graphs & Numerical tables provide concrete visual representations of important concepts, patterns & abstract relationships. Technology gives you the freedom to explore realistic problems & examples, and to spend your time learning concepts, w/o getting bogged down by difficult and/or tedious hand calculations.
- **Ask** questions **DURING** class: if you're confused, seek clarification. This is supposed to be an interactive class, and if you don't get something, it's likely that someone else doesn't as well.
- **Answer** questions **DURING** class. Lead group discussions and help others: tell us what you've learned and let us learn from you.
- Study in groups as **SOON** after class as possible: help -- but don't copy from each other ...we call that plagiarism.
- Complete honesty is expected in written work with proper acknowledgements to sources. Any student engaged in any act of academic dishonesty may receive a failing grade and reported to the appropriate university authorities. For a complete explanation of the **Academic Dishonesty Policy**, refer to page 169 of the SHU Undergraduate Catalog 2004-2006.

Learning Outcomes

The **Mathematics Department** has identified the following five learning outcomes to be achieved by majors and minors in its program.

1. Students will read and understand mathematics, differentiating between correct and incorrect mathematical reasoning.
2. Students will effectively communicate mathematics to others, both in writing and speaking.
3. Students will demonstrate abilities to work independently and in-groups to develop mathematical models using appropriate technologies.
4. Students will demonstrate a mathematical maturity leading to independent investigations, increased responsibility for learning, and participation in the professional mathematics community.

Academic Honesty:

The search for truth and dissemination of knowledge are the central missions of a university. Siena Heights University pursues these missions in an environment guided by our Roman Catholic tradition and our Dominican heritage. Integrity and honesty are therefore expected of all members of the University community, including students, faculty members, administration, and staff. Actions such as cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, forgery, falsification, destruction, multiple submission, solicitation, and misrepresentation, are violations of these expectations and constitute unacceptable behavior in the University community. The penalties for such actions range from verbal warning, all the way to expulsion from the University.

Students are responsible for their own work and accomplishments. You are encouraged to discuss problems with others, but the actual written work submitted should be your own. The first occurrence of cheating on any assignment will result in a grade of zero on that assignment. The second time the same student is observed cheating will result in that student being given an E for the course. All cases of academic dishonesty will be documented and reported to the appropriate authorities on campus. for a complete explanation of the Academic Dishonesty Policy, refer to page 169 of the SHU Undergraduate Catalog 2004-2006.

Students With Disabilities

Section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 require that the institutions such as SHU not discriminate against qualified students with disabilities and that effective and reasonable academic accommodations be provided for eligible students. In accordance with University policy and the equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may be eligible for as a student with a disability. Please contact me for an appointment to discuss possible accommodations. Students must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities for disability verification and determination of reasonable accommodations. Requests for accommodations must be done in a timely manner and are not retroactive.

Cell phones and texting:

Use of cellular phones in any way will not be tolerated. Turn them OFF before class. It is a matter of courtesy and respect toward your classmates and the instructor. Any violation of this policy will result in ***immediate dismissal*** from the classroom. If you miss a quiz as a result, you will receive a grade of 0.

Any use of a cell phone during an exam constitutes academic dishonesty, and will be treated as such. Cell phones are NEVER an acceptable substitute for a calculator.