

Math 104: College Algebra

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Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri.: 1:50 – 2:50 pm
You are also welcome to make appointments for other times.

Course: Topics include: equations and inequalities; graphs, functions and models; polynomial and rational functions; exponential and logarithmic functions.
Prerequisite: Math 103 with grade of C or better or placement. Credit: 3 sem. hrs.

Text: *College Algebra & Trigonometry* by Miller and Gerken
1st edition (2016) McGraw-Hill Education. We will cover chapters 1 through 4 and 11.

Calculators: Department policy allows the use of TI 83 or 84 series calculators; more powerful machines may **not** be used. To develop a sound knowledge of fundamentals, not all in-class quiz and exam questions allow calculators. Cell phone calculators may **not** be used.

Course Structure:

Daily homework
3 collected problem sets
3 quizzes
3 midterm exams
1 cumulative final exam

Grading: Your work will be distributed as follows:

	<u>points</u>
2 problem sets	40
The problem set due when you feel the worst is dropped.	
2 quizzes	40
The quiz during which you feel the worst is dropped.	
3 midterm exams	240
Cumulative final exam [†]	
†1 final exam = 1 midterm exam or, if it helps you,	80 or
1 final exam = 1½ midterm exams	120
A = 90-100% of the total points, B = 80-87%, C = 70-77%, D = 60-69%	
+/- : A- = 89%, B+ = 88%, B- = 79%, C+ = 78%	

Make-Ups: **NO** make-ups for quizzes. **NO** make-ups for exams will be given unless I have agreed to give you one **before** the scheduled exam time.

Problem sets: **NO** late problem sets will be accepted.

Homework: It is very important to do the daily homework exercises. We will go over questions from these exercises in class, and you will profit from working on the problems before we give away their punchlines in class.

Attendance: A passing grade normally requires attendance at no fewer than 80% of the classes held.

- Goals:*
- To master the techniques we cover.
 - To be able to use algebra to solve applied problems.
 - To understand the main concepts of the course well enough to explain them to a younger friend.
 - To improve your abilities to solve problems that require several steps.
 - To learn to communicate mathematics. You should be able to
 - (1) learn mathematics by reading materials such as your textbook;
 - (2) write coherent, complete, and logically organized solutions to problems, including those in your homework;
 - (3) learn mathematics by discussing it with friends, classmates, and me.

Study suggestions:

Plan to **spend at least six hours per week outside of class studying algebra**. Before each class, read the section of the text to be covered. Between each class and the next, review your notes and work the assigned exercises. It is very important to do these exercises. We will go over questions from these exercises in class, but you will benefit most by working on the problems **before** we give away their punchlines in class. Think about the fundamental ideas and *why* the techniques work as well as how to apply them. Each exam will contain problems unlike those you have done before, but understanding the ideas will enable you to do the problems.

Tutors: The math tutor lab has free drop-in tutoring:
<http://www.uwosh.edu/mathematics/resources/resources/tutor-labs>

Important Dates:

Note: *Except for Exam 2*, all exams, quizzes, and problem set due dates are on *Fridays*.

Exams:

Exam 1	Feb. 23	
Exam 2	March 14	<i>Wednesday</i>
Exam 3	April 20	
Exam 4*	May 11	

*Exam 4 is a comprehensive final exam.

Quizzes:

Quiz 1	Feb. 9
Quiz 2	March 2
Quiz 3	April 6

Problem sets:

Problem set 1	Feb. 16
Problem set 2	March 30
Problem set 3	April 13

“Use all your practice sessions to build up the level of concentration. . . When I finish a practice session, or a race, I immediately resail the entire course in my mind. I think of all the good things we have done and I try to come up with solutions to any problems that have come up. . . Over the years I have learned that if you leave something undone it will worry you. . . and you can’t enjoy the peace of mind and confidence that comes when you know the boat is ready to sail.”

Buddy Melges, *Sailing Smart*