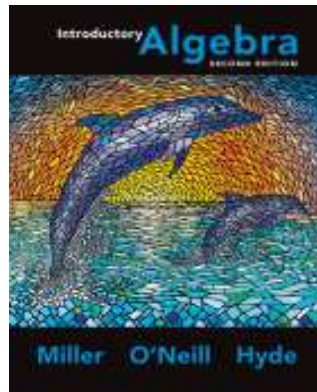


Math 121 – Elementary Algebra
Section 5126, Spring 2012
Location: CAB 277
Days/Times: Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 9:50 a.m.

Instructor: Jim Riley
Office: CAB 257
Phone: 831-755-6749
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Web page: www.hartnell.edu/faculty/jriley
Office hours: 11 a.m. to noon, Monday and Wednesday, CAB 257;
8 to 9 a.m., Thursday, CAB 257

Materials

Required textbook: *Introductory Algebra*, 2nd Edition, by Miller, O'Neill, and Hyde. It looks like this:



Helpful: A calculator with the basic arithmetic functions. Don't buy a graphing calculator for this class, as you won't be able to use it on tests.

Introduction

Welcome to Elementary Algebra!

The course description for Math 121 in the Hartnell College catalog says: “Topics include operations with real numbers, simplifying expressions, solving equations, linear graphing techniques, linear equations and inequalities (both one and two variables), polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, exponents, radicals, and applications.”

This is a 5-unit class, so we have a lot to cover. Make up your mind to always be completely caught up on the homework, from Day One to the last day of class. We meet five times a week, and I'll be assigning homework almost every time, so you'll have to make a serious time commitment in order to keep up.

Testing and Grading

Your grade will be based on in-class tests, the final exam, and homework. Your lowest in-class test score will be dropped. Your final exam score will not be dropped.

Homework will count as 10% of your grade. Your test scores – including the final exam, but not including your lowest in-class test score – will all count equally toward the other 90% of your grade.

You'll end up with an overall score on a 100-point scale. Your letter grade is determined by that score:

90 to 100:	A
80 to 89:	B
70 to 79:	C
60 to 69:	D
59 or less:	F

The cutoff points could end up a little lower (for example, the A's might go down to 88 instead of 90), but they won't be any higher than what's shown above.

No make-up tests will be given – no exceptions. If you miss one in-class test, that will automatically be the one that doesn't count.

The final exam is Wednesday, May 30, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. It will be a *comprehensive* final. That means it covers the whole course, not just the material that comes after the last in-class test.

If you cheat on a test, you'll automatically receive a 0 (zero) on the test, and that 0 will *not* be the test score that gets thrown out in determining your grade.

Attendance and Drops

The most important thing about attendance can be stated in three words: COME TO CLASS!

If you have absences, I may drop you if you miss six or more class meetings by the end of week 14 (May 4). If that happens, but you still want to finish the class, you'll have to convince me that you had a good reason for being absent and that you still have a good chance of passing the class. In that case, I may agree to re-instate you into the class. For more information, see Hartnell's attendance policy at www.hartnell.edu/academics/policies/attendance.html.

Sometimes people want or need to drop a class on their own. If you find yourself in that situation, here's what you need to know:

- If you decide you're not going to finish this class, take the initiative to drop it yourself. I'll probably drop you if you stop coming, but it's better not to count on that.
- The last day to drop and receive a refund is Saturday, February 4.
- The last day to drop and not have the class appear on your transcript is Friday, February 17. If you drop after February 17, the class will show up on your transcript with W (Withdrawn) as the grade.

- The last day to drop and receive a grade of W is Friday, May 4. After that date, you can't drop the class and I can't drop you from it.

The Rules

I don't want to see or hear cell phones in class! If you absolutely must use your phone, take it outside the classroom (and not right outside the door – we don't want to hear your conversation) and return as quietly as possible.

No ear buds or ear phones.

Bring paper, a pencil or pen, and your calculator to each class meeting, and be ready to start at the scheduled time of 9:00 a.m.

On exams, you can't use a graphing calculator, you can't use a phone as a calculator, and you can't share a calculator with an other student.

Resources

This is a challenging class. If you start to feel like you're lost or in need of help, take action right away – there's no shame in needing help, but it is a shame to not do something about it. Here are some resources you can turn to:

1. Me. Come to my office hours, which are listed at the beginning of this syllabus. If those times don't work for you, ask me about meeting at another time, and I'll do my best to accommodate you.
2. The tutorial center. It's located in the College Annex building, which is the one-story building right next to Merrill Hall. You'll be getting one-on-one help from experienced tutors who are also students at Hartnell.
3. The MESA (Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement) program, which is located on the second floor of Merrill Hall. There are some academic requirements, which are listed at www.hartnell.edu/mesa/apply.html.
4. Form a study group with other students in this class. When students in the same class work together on a regular basis, they very often learn more and keep each other more motivated.
5. Internet resources like www.khanacademy.org/#Algebra.

Equal Access

In compliance with equal access laws, I'm available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first week of the class, except under unusual circumstances, so that arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with the Department of Supportive Programs and Services (DSP&S) for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations. The DSP&S office is located in the CALL building, room 107. For further information, students may write, drop by the CALL building location, phone (831)755-6760 or 770-6199 (TDD/TTY), or visit the following web page: www.hartnell.edu/students/dsps.