

Fall 2008
MAT 062 – Elementary Algebra
Kirkwood Community College – Iowa City Campus

Instructor: John Dawson

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OFFICE HOURS: MWF 10:00 – 11:00 am.

T 1:00-2:00 pm.

Th 9:00-10:00 am

I'm always willing to meet with students outside of class. That's what I'm here for! Feel free to drop by to see me or you can always arrange a time to meet with me.

Lecture Time: TTH 8:00-9:50/8:00-8:50 am, 3 credit hours.

Lecture Room: 256 Iowa City Campus

Synonym & Section Number: 083696 MAT-062-ICF05

Text: Introductory Algebra (6th edition) by Wright along with Hawkes Learning Systems software

Calculator: You will need a scientific calculator or a graphing calculator – it depends on what math classes you plan on taking in the future. You won't need this at the start of class, but may want it before the end.

Course Description: Provides for the development of the skills needed for success in Intermediate Algebra. Includes the study of properties of real numbers, equations and inequalities of one variable, introduction to graphing, operations and factoring of polynomials, operations with rational expressions and equations.

Course prerequisites: This course presumes students have a proficiency in fractions, decimals, and integers, and students have had an introduction to solving linear equations and graphing in the rectangular coordinate system.

General Education Objectives or General Learning Outcomes

- Analyze conditions of a given problem and design solutions to it
- Select and develop models appropriate to problems
- Express models numerically, graphically, and symbolically
- Identify, interpret, and manipulate relevant data
- Know terms, facts, principles, and procedures
- Interpret charts and graphs
- Construct charts and graphs
- Demonstrate correct usage of methods and procedures
- Recognize unstated assumptions
- Translate verbal material into mathematical expressions
- Solve mathematical equations
- Develop a personal scheme for classifying and arranging facts, procedures, and problem solving strategies
- Obtain correct mathematical result with or without technological assistance
- Judge the reasonableness of calculated results

Student Success at Kirkwood:

The best suggestions for success are: 1) attend class, 2) do homework and reading assignments, 3) take and use notes, and 4) ask questions.

General Attendance Policy:

I expect you to attend every class. You will be responsible for all of the material covered, so if you miss a class you better get a copy of the notes from one of your peers. In my experience, poor attendance generally means poor performance. Some assignments require your attendance in order to get credit for them – please see the make-up policy below.

General Learning environment Expectations:

Please try to be on time and plan on being in class the entire time. Reading should be done ahead of each class so that we can have fruitful discussions about the daily topics. I WILL RANDOMLY CALL ON STUDENTS – be prepared to answer my questions. Please respect those students sitting around you in class – WHEN I AM LECTURING, YOU SHOULD NOT BE TALKING. I will dismiss students from class that are disruptive. Cell phones and other personal digital devices must be turned off.

Course Evaluation:

Course evaluation will be based on a homework, quizzes, and exams. +/- grading will be used. Final grades will be based on the total points obtained at the end of the semester out of the total available points. A grading curve will be applied if **absolutely** necessary and only at the end of the semester.

Homework:

You will use software to submit homework assignments online. The system from Hawkes Learning calls homework “certifies”. I will give plenty of time to learn how to use the software and will help you extensively with it during the semester. You will be able to do the online assignment as many times as you need to in order to certify and you will get full credit for the assignment once you do certify. I will explain how this works more in class. See make-up policy below.

Quizzes:

Each week you should have a quiz over the recent material. Quizzes will have similar questions as what will show up on the exams and will be designed to help you prepare for the exams. These problems might be problems from the homework and at times in the semester I will allow you to work in a small group, use notes, homework, and the textbook. The quizzes could also be in the format as a review quiz for the exams. See make-up policy below.

Take-Home Quizzes:

For each chapter I will give you a take-home quiz that you can work on your own pace at home using your book and notes. You cannot consult another student in the class about the answers and tutors in the Math Lab are not allowed to give you answers to the problems (BUT they can help you work through similar problems). See make-up policy below.

Exams:

Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam will be comprehensive with approximately half of the exam concentrating on material from the last part of the class. Exam dates are listed on the syllabus. I will only apply grading curves to the exams at the end of the semester if necessary. See make-up policy below.

Make-ups:

- Exams: Make-ups for exams will be allowed for reasonable and verifiable excuses. Examples of reasonable excuses are: medical emergency, family death, illness that requires doctor’s care or some other major event out of the student’s control. I will not allow a make-up for any unreasonable excuse. You will be given 2 class periods to make up the exam and you must take the exam in the Test Center. I reserve the right not to allow a student a make-up for an exam if they have already been granted a make-up exam during the semester.
- Quizzes: Make-up will **NOT** be allowed for quizzes, but I will **drop** your **lowest 2 scores**. If you take all the quizzes, your lowest 2 scores will be calculated as extra credit.
- Take-Home Quizzes: You must give me your take-home quiz **within one class period** of the due date in order to get credit. After this time period, I will not give you any credit on your take-home quiz.

- Homework: I will **NOT** take late homework (i.e. certifies), but I will **drop** your **lowest 4 scores**. If you do all the certifies, your lowest 4 scores will be calculated as extra credit.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Quizzes: 10 points each (~180 points total)
 Take-Home Quizzes: 20 points each (~160 points total)
 Homework: 5 points for each certify (~ 300 points total)
 Exams: 100 pts each (200 points total)
 Final Exam: 160 points

Note: Your final grade will be based on the total points you obtain out of the total points possible. This is only an estimate of the number of points possible.

Total Possible Points (estimated): 1000 pts.

Grade distribution:

A = 100-93%, A- = 92-90%; B+ = 89-87%; B = 86-83%; B- = 82-80%; C+ = 79-77%;
 C = 76-73%; C- = 72-70%; D+ = 69-67%; D = 66-63%; D- = 62-60%; F = < 60%.

**** If you need help calculating your current grade, especially if you just need to know how many assignments we have had at any point in the semester, let me know. Otherwise, grades will be recorded in the Hawkes Online System and I will give you an estimate of your grade after each exam.**

Kirkwood's Class Attendance Policy and College Sponsored Activities:

Class Attendance Policy: Learning is central to our work at Kirkwood Community College. Faculty design educational experiences to facilitate learning and students learn by engaging in those experiences. Attendance and engagement in all scheduled classes is regarded as integral to learning and is expected of all students.

Kirkwood faculty members identify expectations for learning and attendance in their course syllabi. Students are accountable for the learning outcomes for each session, including those sessions that have been missed. Assessments of learning that occur during an absence may or may not be made up, depending on the policies of the instructor and the nature of the absence. Absences that result from participation in college sponsored activities* will be accommodated, subject to the guidelines listed below. For all other absences, authorization of an excuse is the province of the individual faculty member and subject to the standard appeal process.

College Sponsored Activities:

Students involved in activities where they are required to represent the college, i.e. college-sponsored activities, must give written notice to the faculty member at least one week in advance of the absence unless last minute schedule changes make this notice impossible. If regular season athletic schedules have been developed, student participants must present written notice of anticipated absences within the first week of the semester. Failure to provide timely written notice may result in loss of this opportunity.

Faculty shall accord students the opportunity to independently make up course work or work of equal value, for the day(s) the event was scheduled and to take a scheduled exam at an alternate time. The faculty member shall determine alternate exam times and due dates for missed coursework. These assigned dates may be prior to the date of the absence.

Organizers (coaches, faculty and staff) of college sponsored activities shall 1) assist students in planning class schedules to minimize the number of absences; 2) inform students of their responsibilities as described above; and 3) provide written communications to faculty announcing and verifying the need for student class absences. Written notices should be provided at the beginning of the semester if the schedule is known, or as soon as possible after the need for a student absence is determined.

* College sponsored activities (excluding practices) include such events as athletic competitions, student academic competitions and conferences, musical and drama performances, and class field trips. Questions on whether an activity is a college-sponsored event for purposes of this policy should be directed to the Vice-President of Instruction. If anticipated absences for a semester appear to be extraordinarily numerous

or difficult to accommodate, a faculty member may appeal the need for the full accommodation to the VP of Instruction.

Kirkwood’s View on a Productive Classroom Learning Environment:

We believe that the best learning takes place in an environment where faculty and students exhibit trust and mutual respect.

Students promote trust by preparing honest and thoughtful work, and by expecting evaluation based on performance. Faculty promote trust by setting clear guidelines for assignments and evaluations, honest feedback, and by assigning bias-free grades.

Students show respect by being prepared and attending class on time, by paying attention, contributing to discussions, listening respectfully to others’ points of view, meeting deadlines, and by striving for their best performance. Faculty show respect by their timeliness and preparedness, by taking students seriously, by valuing their goals and aspirations, and by providing honest feedback.

In a productive learning environment, faculty and students work cooperatively, recognize and respect differences, model the values of character and citizenship, and become lifelong learners.

Plagiarism Policy:

According to Webster, to plagiarize is to “steal or pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own... to use created productions without crediting the source... to commit literary theft... to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.”

Kirkwood Students are responsible for authenticating any assignment submitted to an instructor. If asked, you must be able to produce proof that the assignment you submit is actually your own work. Therefore, we recommend that you engage in a verifiable working process on assignments. Keep copies of all drafts of your work, make photocopies of research materials, write summaries of research materials, hang onto Writing Center receipts, keep logs or journals of your work on assignments or papers, learn to save drafts or versions of assignments under individual file names on computer or diskette, etc.

The inability to authenticate your work, should an instructor request it, is a sufficient ground for failing the assignment.

In addition to requiring a student to authenticate his/her work, Kirkwood Community College instructors may employ various other means of ascertaining authenticity – such as engaging in Internet searches, creating quizzes based on student work, requiring students to explain their work and/or process orally, etc.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Students with disabilities who need accommodations to achieve course objectives should file an accommodation application with Student Services and provide a written plan of accommodation to your instructor prior to the accommodation being provided.

School Cancellations:

When Kirkwood classes are cancelled or delayed due to inclement weather, all classes at all locations are cancelled. The announcements will indicate whether the cancellations apply to day or evening classes. The following broadcasters will be notified:

KZIA-FM Z102.9 (Cedar Rapids)
WMT-AM 600
KFMW-FM 107.9 (Waterloo)
KCKK-FM 88.3
KXIC-AM 800 (Iowa City)
KGAN-TV2
KCJJ-AM 1630 (Iowa City)
KCRG-TV9
KSUI-FM 91.7 (Iowa City)
KWWL-TV7
KUNI-FM 90.9 (Cedar Falls)
KHAK-FM 98.1
KDAT-FM 104.5
KCH (Washington)
KRNA-FM 94.1 (Iowa City)
KMRY-AM 1450
KOKZ-FM 105.7 (Waterloo)

Note: If we have inclement weather for the final exam, the make-up will be December 15 unless another arrangement can be made with the instructor.

Important Dates:

- Exam Dates: September 25, October 30, and December 9 (Final Exam).
- November 11: Last day to drop a class from Kirkwood.
- December 5: Last day for complete withdrawal of classes from Kirkwood

Course Schedule

*This is a tentative schedule of topics. Exam dates will not change
I will keep you informed of what will be covered on each of the exams.*

Date (week of)	Topic	Readings
August 19	Introduction to Course / Pre-test	1.1-1.4
August 26	Intro to Algebraic Expressions	1.5, 2.1-2.3
September 2	Intro to Algebraic Expressions (cont.)	2.4-2.6
September 9	Equations and Inequalities	3.1-3.3
September 16	Equations and Inequalities	3.4-3.6
September 23	Equations and Inequalities, Catch-up and Review for Exam #1 (Tuesday) Exam # 1 (Thursday, Sept. 25)	3.7-3.8
September 30	Intro to Graphing	4.1-4.3
October 7	Intro to Graphing (cont.)	4.4-4.6
October 14	Exponents and Polynomials	6.1-6.4
October 21	Exponents and Polynomials (cont.)	6.5-6.7
October 28	Catch-up and Review for Exam # 2 (Tuesday) Exam # 2 (Thursday, Oct. 30)	
November 4	Polynomials & Factoring	7.1-7.3
November 11	Polynomials & Factoring (cont.)	7.4-7.7
November 18	Rational Expressions & Equations	8.1-8.3
November 25	Rational Expressions & Equations (cont.) No Class Thursday – College Holiday	8.4-8.5
December 2	Rational Expressions & Equations (cont.) Catch-up and Review for Final (Thursday)	8.6-8.7
December 9	Final Exam (Tuesday 8:00-9:50 pm in our usual room)	