

Community College of Philadelphia

Mathematics 017, Fall, 2008

Section 019, CRN 40876

Wednesdays 6:30-9:25

Room 101, West Regional Center

Instructor: Dr. Joanne Darken

Office at WERC: Amongst the cubbies

Office at Main Campus: B1-9D

Telephone (Main Campus): 215-751-8721

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Web site: faculty.ccp.edu/faculty/jdarken/ (You can get to it by googling my name.)

Office hours:

Tuesday at the Main Campus, Room B1-9D: 3:15-5:15, 6:45-7:15

Wednesday at the West Regional Center, Room in a cubby 5-6:20

Thursday at the Main Campus, Room B1-9D: 6:45-7:15

Friday at the Northwest Regional Center, Room 222: 11:10-12, 3:15-3:30

You do not have to make an appointment to see me during office hours; just come—it's first come, first served. If you need to see me and cannot get to an office hour, catch me before or after class or make an appointment for another time.

The course

Welcome to Math 017! This is an introductory course in algebra, a subject which is a gateway to many programs of study, and which introduces you to ways of thinking that are important to function effectively in the modern world. By the end of the course you should have an understanding of the patterns and rules that govern the ordinary operations ($+$, $-$, \times , \div , $^$ (exponentiation)) on numbers, including fractions and signed numbers, and the ability to apply these patterns and rules to solve problems; in particular, to use variables and equations with understanding. Many applications require doing this.

Topics covered are: properties of numbers, signed numbers and fractions (brief review); concept of a variable; equivalent expressions; polynomials; solving linear equations in one variable; plotting points; graphing lines; solving systems of two linear equations in two variables; quadratic equations.

A typical class period will start with a short quiz on the homework assigned two weeks before, then discussion to any issues that came up in the homework assigned the time before. Next there will a short lecture on a new topic, then group work on the new material, then class presentation and/or discussion of results. Usually, since we meet for three hours at a time, there will be a second and maybe third round of lecture, group work and discussion. We will take a ten-minute break at 8 p.m. or a little after.

Text

The text is written by the instructor and will be given out in installments in class. No other text is required.

Supplies you will need

- 1) a scientific calculator (such as a TI-30)
- 2) a three-ring binder for your text, notes and materials
- 3) three-ring loose-leaf paper
- 4) a ruler
- 5) graph paper

Homework, attendance, punctuality and classroom behavior

It is important that you do your homework and do it on time, since we usually build on what we've just done.

You should attend every class and to be present for the entire class. If you are absent for six or more hours (2 classes) up to the 11th week of the semester, you may be dropped from the course, according to College policy. If you contact the instructor within a week of missing the sixth hour and can prove you were very ill or in court, and your record and circumstances indicate you can catch up, you may be allowed to stay in the class. But try hard not to miss that much class; in fact, try not to miss any.

If you can't make it to class for some reason, contact the instructor or another student, or check the web page, to get the work. Also, contact the instructor, preferably in advance, to let her know you won't be there and what the trouble is. Late arrival, early departure or leaving and returning during class each count as half an hour of absence. Attendance will be taken from the brief quiz at the beginning. Please do not schedule appointments during class time. If for some reason you must leave early, please let the instructor know in advance and sit near the door so that your departure causes a minimum of disruption. **If you must withdraw from the course, be sure to do so officially, and before 5 am Monday, November 20. Do not assume the instructor will withdraw you.**

Class time is a time to focus on mathematics. Occasionally you may need to relax briefly from the intensity of your labors, but standard classroom etiquette and behavior are expected. Nothing that interferes with these, such as talking or moving about while the instructor or anyone else is making a presentation, is permitted.

Much as we encourage the use of technology, you are not to use earphones in class, and if you bring a cell phone or beeper it should be turned off. The noise is distracting. If an emergency at home demands that you have your cell phone on, put it on vibrate mode, tell the instructor in advance, and sit near the door so you can leave the room to answer it.

Grading

There will be a quiz at the beginning of class every day starting with the third week, except test days. There will also be four tests, and a final exam.

- Each quiz will be graded on the basis of 25 points. Quizzes will be given promptly at 6:30, so be sure you are on time to class. No one will be allowed extra time because of lateness. The lowest three quiz grades will be dropped, and a missed quiz will count as one of the dropped. Total

possible points for quizzes is 200.

- The test dates are September 24, October 15, November 5 and November 26. Each test counts 400 points. It is important to take tests on time. If you miss a test you must make it up, but you lose 10 points from your grade for not taking it on time, and 10 additional points for every class day till you take it, unless you can prove you were very ill or in court. It is often difficult to find a time outside class when student and instructor are both free to meet, and you should make every effort to take your tests on time.

It is not likely that the test dates will be changed, but it is possible, so you should check with the instructor a week before the announced date to be sure. Any change will of course be announced in class at least one week in advance.

- The final exam date is December 10. The final exam counts 600 points.

The total possible number of points is 2400. To pass (P) you need a total of 1680 points, including a grade of at least 400 on the final exam. A point total of 1440 to 1679 means you are making progress (MP) but are not yet ready to go to the next course. A point total lower than 1440 means you have not yet mastered the course material, and results in a grade of F.

It is important that every student do his or her own work on tests, quizzes and the final exam, for the student's own sake and that of others. The penalty for cheating is a grade of zero the first time, and more serious disciplinary action if it happens again.

Help

If you have questions about the work we are doing, you have several sources of help:

- 1) You can catch me before or after class or see me in any of my office hours (listed above)
- 2) You can see a tutor in Room 125 of the West Regional Center. Hours for tutoring will be posted there.
- 3) You can see a tutor at the Main Campus, Room B2-36. From 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., call 215-751-8479 for an appointment (and tell them you're coming from West Philadelphia—they don't make appointments over the phone for Main Campus students) After 4:15, call 215-751-8473
- 4) Below are some web sites recommended by CCP math faculty. I have looked at all of them, but only briefly. I think they could be useful. Your feedback would be appreciated.

<http://ccpmathlibrarian.wetpaint.com/page/Math+017+-+Beginning+Algebra>
A list of sites on various topics, with explanations and practice problems (J. Warren)

<http://go.hrw.com/gopages/ma-al.html> The Holt Publishers site for math. Includes practice with algebra and some math games (C. Carr)

http://www.thefutureschannel.com/algebra_real_world.php Videos showing jobs and activities that use some math. (C. Duvaul)

About.com has a section on mathematics Practice with fractions, etc.
You can print out coordinate grids from this site. (F. Santoro)

<http://www.freemathtexts.org/RBAancillaries.html> This is mainly
for instructors, and is different. If you want to check it out, choose the RBA
tab on the site. For problems, go "Ancillaries." (A Schremmer)