Mathematics 017, Fall 2010
Section 021, CRN 40879
Tuesday and Thursday, 2-3:20
Room B1-10

Instructor: Dr. Joanne Darken
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Office hours:
Tuesday: 12:30-1:50
Thursday: 11:10-12:40

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. This course covers algebraic expressions; equivalent algebraic expressions; operations on algebraic expressions; linear equations and inequalities in one variable; and factoring.

A typical class period will start with a short quiz on the homework assigned two classes before, then discussion of 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.

Text  Math 017: Materials with Exercises

Supplies you will need
1) a three-ring binder
2) three-ring loose-leaf 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.

Students are expected to be in class for the full class time. In recent years there have been increasing problems with a few students chronically being late or leaving during class. This of course distracts everyone else in the room. Anyone may have a last-minute emergency or delay, but to maintain an orderly classroom atmosphere it has become necessary to impose a penalty for such incidents. Lateness or leaving during class (to return or not) will be penalized as a half hour of absence per occurrence after the first time.
A student absent for six hours or more (including the half hours just men-
tioned) may be dropped from the course, according to College policy. (A student
in this situation has probably been absent too much to do well in the course, or
has been disrupting the class by frequent untimely arrivals and/or departures.)
If you have special, documentable reasons for absence and your record indicates
you could catch up, contact me, the instructor, promptly to discuss the matter.

If you must withdraw from the course, be sure to do so officially,
and before 5 p.m. Monday, November 30. Do not assume the in-
structor 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.

Grading
There will be a brief quiz at the beginning of class every day except on a
test day or the day after a test day. There will also be three tests, and a final
exam during exam week.

- Each quiz will be graded on the basis of 10 points. Quizzes will be given
  promptly at the beginning of class, so be sure you are on time to class. No
  one will be allowed extra time because of lateness. The highest fifteen quiz
  grades will be counted, so the quiz total is 150 points. (A student who is
  present for fewer than seven quizzes gets zeros for the missing ones.).

- Each test counts 200 points. The tests will be given in the third, seventh
  and eleventh weeks.
  It is important to take tests on time. If a student misses a test s/he must
  make it up, but loses 10 points from the grade for not taking it on time,
  and 10 additional points for every class day till taking it, unless there is
  proof s/he was very ill or in court. It is often difficult to find a time outside
  class when student and instructor are both free to meet; this is another
  reason it is important to take tests on time.

- The final exam will be given the first week in May, either Tuesday or
  Thursday, in a two-hour slot at about our regular class time. The final
  exam counts 250 points.

The total possible number of points is 1000. To pass (P) you need a total
of 700 points, including at least 160 points on the final exam. A point total
of 600-699 means you are making progress (MP) but are not yet ready to go to
the next course. A point total lower than 600 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 the sake of fairness. 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 see me, the instructor, just before or after class or in office hours. You can also E-mail me, though of course I am not always at my computer and you may have to wait.

2) You can see a tutor in Room B2-36. You should make an appointment a week in advance, but since there are occasionally no-shows you can always try dropping in.

3) Below are some web sites recommended by CCP math faculty that you might find useful. If you find another that you like, please share it with the class.

- [http://ccpmathlibrarian.wetpaint.com/page/Math+017+-+Beginning+Algebra](http://ccpmathlibrarian.wetpaint.com/page/Math+017+-+Beginning+Algebra)  
  A list of sites on various topics, with explanations and practice problems (J. Warren) This list is about three years old and some of the links don’t work, but it has many that do.

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

  Videos showing jobs and activities that use some math. (C. Duvaul)

- [About.com](http://www.about.com) has a section on mathematics  
  Practice with fractions, etc. You can print out coordinate grids from this site. (F. Santoro)

**Some important dates**

- September 28: Test 1
- October 26: Test 2
- November 23: Test 3
- November 25-27: Thanksgiving break
- November 30: Drop deadline
- December 9: Last day of our class
- December 14 or 16: Final exam (The exact day and time will be announced near the end of the semester. We have a two-hour time slot for the final exam, at or near our regular class time.)