

MAT 0213 - Intermediate Algebra

Instructor: J. Broll

Office: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Lecture Time: 15:30-16:45 TR

Locations: Class will be held in MH 3.03.14

Final Examination: Saturday, 5 May, 10:30-13:00

Official Textbook: Bittinger and Beecher, "Developmental Algebra" 8ed.

Webpage: <http://math.utsa.edu/~lza405/>

Course Materials, Expectations, and Conduct

The course will cover every section of Chapters 8-15 of the official textbook, beginning with the definition of a polynomial and continuing through factorization, as well as additional material at the instructor's discretion. Emphasis is placed on intuition and development of critical thinking skills.

Real-world applications will rarely be given in class, as extra credit (and, later on, the real world) will often require finding applications of new concepts. When applications are given, they will typically be physical (for example, projectile motion), and occasional practical uses (such as mental math tricks) may come up.

Grades for the class come from homework assignments and tests given throughout the class, totaling 60% of the final grade, and a comprehensive department-wide final examination which counts for the remaining 40%. Grades of 70 and above earn credit; lower grades do not.

Late work will be accepted under unusual circumstances, but will be made significantly harder. Failure to keep up with deadlines will not be excused outside extremely hostile situations with documentation; pleading incompetence will only worsen any situations that result from failure to meet deadlines. It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of assignments and deadlines; since attendance is mandatory and all assignments will be posted in no fewer than two accessible places online, only extreme circumstances will excuse late work.

Attendance is mandatory; missing more than 300 minutes of class unexcused will result in immediate ineligibility — this is not a policy of the instructor but of higher guidelines regulating the course, so make sure to have good excuses for missed classes as this is not subject to instructor discretion.

Attending office hours is not required, but students who attended office hours in previous classes have done significantly better than those who did not. Any mathematical work is fair game in the office. Asking good questions will be the best way to get the most from this class. Err on the side of asking too many questions. Anonymous submission of questions is acceptable.

Class participation is encouraged, and will be extracted by force if necessary.

Students are expected to comply with university regulations regarding scholastic dishonesty; violation of these regulations will bring about severe disciplinary measures, ranging from failure in the course to dismissal from the university, as determined by the office of Student Judicial Affairs.

Disruptive behavior will not be accepted - preserving a proper learning environment is essential, so behavior that interferes with the class will result in verbal warning, followed by request to leave the class. Repeated disruptive behavior will result in more severe action, including, but not limited to, permanent removal from the class.

Technology

The website will hold all necessary course materials.

Electronic mail should be sent to **Jeffrey.Broll@utsa.edu**.

Acceptable electronic formats for homework are plaintext and PDF. Do **NOT** submit other formats (including, but not limited to, those exclusive to Microsoft (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Write, or Works), Corel Wordperfect, Lotus Word Pro, MacWrite, or Xerox Beta) if they are meant to be read, as I do not have or want software that will deal with these formats. I will give one reminder if a document is submitted in a format that is not plaintext or PDF; after that I may not say anything at all. All editors worth using have an option to export files as PDF, and the internet can help with obtaining tools to allow others to export to PDF - in Windows, the tool PDFCreator should work; Mac and *nix systems should have built-in PDF printing capability.

Avoid using HTML mail if possible, as it is annoying and unnecessary.

A basic calculator (single-line, arithmetic only - no scientific, graphing, or multipurpose devices (including phones)) may be used on the final examination, but they are not allowed in other tests or quizzes.