

## Math 40 – Elementary Algebra

MWF – FH 125, TTh – FH 232

10-10:50am Daily (CRN 45082)

### Instructor - Amber Buntin

**Phone:** 707-826-4131 (Contact via email is preferred)

**email:** [Amber.Buntin@humboldt.edu](mailto:Amber.Buntin@humboldt.edu) (In subject please include: **Math 40**)

**Webpage:** <http://users.humboldt.edu/buntina> **Office:** BSS 229

**Office hours:** Mon/Wed 11-11:50am &  
avail by appointment (email me)  
Room to be announced

### Course Description

Elementary Algebra: Transition from arithmetic to algebra; operations on real numbers and algebraic expressions; polynomials, fractional expression, square roots; solving elementary equations and word problems. [May not be repeated upon receipt of a grade below C- or a grade of U, NC, or W. This course does not satisfy the GE math requirement for the baccalaureate degree and does not count as credit towards the baccalaureate degree.] **Recall, you are conditionally admitted to HSU provided you complete your remediation within your first year of college.**

### Classroom Environment and Attendance

It is essential to our class that both the students and teacher behave in a manner that will provide a comfortable learning atmosphere. Be respectful to one another. You should not hesitate to ask questions nor feel embarrassed to ask for help.

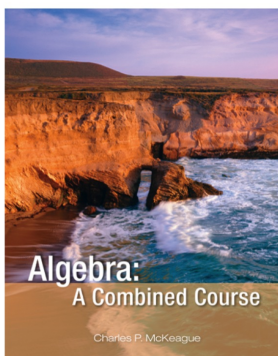
Class time is valuable and while sometimes we will work on in-class activities, I ask that you DO NOT complete homework in class. Working on assignments during lecture typically results in students missing the current material, falling behind, and is an overall bad habit to form.

You are expected to arrive on time and to leave when the class is dismissed. Arriving late or leaving before dismissal is disruptive and disrespectful to your fellow students as well as your teacher. Please be prepared with your headphones put away and cell phones turned on silent. If you must miss a day, please check with a classmate to see what you missed. If you miss more than 3 classes, your grade may be dropped  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a letter grade.

### Grades

<b>Homework.....</b>	<b>20%</b>	93-100%.....	A
<b>Activities.....</b>	<b>10%</b>	90-92%.....	A-
<b>Quizzes.....</b>	<b>10%</b>	88-89%.....	B+
<b>Exams.....</b>	<b>35%</b>	83-87%.....	B
<b>Final Exam.....</b>	<b>25%</b>	80-82%.....	B-
		78-79%.....	C+
		70-77%.....	C
		0-69.....	Not Passing

\*\*\* Final grade is at the professional discretion of the instructor \*\*\*



## Required Materials

**Textbook** - *Algebra: A Combined Course*, by McKeague

- ISBN 9781936368105
- **Used** - \$44 rent, \$66 buy - **New** \$88 buy (e-access included)
- \$40 e-content access (1 year): <http://www.xyztextbooks.com/>

***You WILL turn in hand-written exercises from the book for HW!!***

**Supplies** - Binder, lined paper, erasers, ruler/straight edge, and graph paper (There is also free printable graph paper on my webpage). NO calculators will be used in this class.

**Reference Book** - You will also need a composition notebook with graph paper if possible. This will be a reference book for the semester to be used on quizzes and on **Exam 3 if you keep it up to date** (See Reference Book Instructions on the course webpage for more information).

## Homework

Homework (HW) sets (problems from the textbook) will be announced in class, as well as posted on my webpage, and will be due after the lecture on a section is complete (nearly every class period). **No late work is accepted.** If you can't attend class, you should ask a friend to turn it in for you. All HW should be neat, and well organized. Use a pencil and eraser (or erasable pen), a ruler, and staple multiple sheets. Messy papers will be returned ungraded. Poorly organized papers or hard-to-follow problems will receive little or no credit (See "Homework Guidelines" Handout for more details). I will drop your **two** lowest homework scores at the end of the semester.

Our course will have a grader who will grade 4 selected problems from each set (2 points each), and also give credit for neatness and completeness (2 points) making assignments worth 10 points each. I suggest doing each assigned problem twice. Do the HW first on scratch paper that way you don't have to worry about neatness etc. Then, once you know exactly how a solution goes, transcribe it neatly onto the paper you will submit. Presentation is a component of your grade. It will benefit you to check (NOT COPY) the answers to the odd numbered problems in the back of the book.

The assignments may take a great deal of time so I recommend you:

- **read the section** of the textbook that is going to be covered **BEFORE** the class lecture.
- **start the homework as soon as lecture is started** for that section (or even before lecture).
- **set aside at least 1-2 hours** for each hour of class time, to do assignments.
- **start working on HW as soon after class as possible** this way you will have plenty of time to ask for help.

*Set yourself up to succeed:* do a little bit at a time. Remember, homework is a worthwhile investment since it is where a great deal of your learning for this course will take place. I encourage **collaboration (NOT COPYING)** on assignments. If you work with peers on assignments, **please indicate in writing the person(s) you worked with on the assignment on the first or last page.**

## Quizzes

There will be a quiz nearly every week in class (or take-home). Each quiz will consist of problems similar to recent homework problems. HOWEVER, I reserve the right to quiz you on any material you should know. This includes all material up to wherever we are in the book. The lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester. Quizzes cannot be retaken or made up. You will be allowed to use your composition notebook on quizzes (again, if you keep them up to date).

## Support Services

Learning Commons **Lower LIB room 101** (707) 826-5598 (FREE small group tutoring avail.)

Math Tutoring Lab **LIB 208** Typical Hours: Mon-Thurs 11am-8pm, Fri 12-4pm, Sun 3-8pm

Private Tutor List **BSS 320** Available in the Math Dept. Office (and posted on my webpage)

Instructor Office Hours by appointment

## Exams and the Final

There will be **three** 50-minute, in class exams throughout the semester and a 2-hour comprehensive final examination at the end of the semester. The first two exams will be closed book and you will be allowed to use your composition notebook on Exam 3 provided you turned it in for Exams 1, 2 (NO comp books allowed on the Final Exam). Exams will consist of problems similar to those discussed in lecture and the homework and will be announced **at least a week** in advance. There are **NO EXAM MAKE-UPS**, so be sure to make all travel plans and such accordingly.

Final Exam: **Friday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 10:20-12:10pm**

## How to Succeed in this Course

- **Read your text.** Read the section of the text ahead of the scheduled lecture date.
- **Be in class** on time every day.
- **Do your homework!** Plan to spend 1-2 hours outside of class for every hour inside of class. That is the minimum investment of time for success in this course.
- **Work with colleagues.** Mathematics is a social subject (but not a spectator sport). Working with fellow students helps in your own understanding of the ideas of the course.
- **Read and keep your returned work.** When you get work back, look for any remarks that the grader or I have made. Keep your work in a binder to keep a record of your scores.

## Policies

- **Students with Disabilities:** Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center in the Learning Commons, Lower Library 055, 826-4678 (voice) or 826-5392 (TDD). Some accommodations may take up to several weeks to arrange. <http://www.humboldt.edu/disability/>
- **Add/Drop policy:** Students are responsible for knowing the University policy, procedures, and schedule for dropping or adding classes. <http://www.humboldt.edu/~reg/regulations/schedadjust.html>
- **Emergency evacuation:** Please review the evacuation plan for the classroom (posted on the orange signs), and review [http://www.humboldt.edu/emergencymgmtprogram/evacuation\\_procedures.php](http://www.humboldt.edu/emergencymgmtprogram/evacuation_procedures.php) for information on campus Emergency Procedures. During an emergency, information can be found campus conditions at: **826-INFO** or [www.humboldt.edu/emergency](http://www.humboldt.edu/emergency)
- **Academic honesty:** Don't Cheat. You can get kicked out of college. Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding academic honesty: [http://www.humboldt.edu/studentrights/academic\\_honesty.php](http://www.humboldt.edu/studentrights/academic_honesty.php) or <http://pine.humboldt.edu/registrar/catalog/>
- **Attendance and disruptive behavior:** Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding attendance and disruptive behavior: [http://www.humboldt.edu/studentrights/attendance\\_behavior.php](http://www.humboldt.edu/studentrights/attendance_behavior.php)

## Final words

A few words about my expectations for you and myself in this course: My responsibilities include coming to class prepared to teach you mathematics, giving clear lectures, assigning carefully chosen homework problems that are relevant to our course and carefully preparing exam questions that accurately measure your progress in the course. Additionally, I am responsible to be available to you outside of class for consultation in office hours.

Likewise, I believe that you are ultimately responsible for your college education and I expect you to come to class motivated to learn the material and ready to work; this involves keeping up with homework assignments, seeking additional help, either from me or from the many resources available to you on campus, before it is too late ☺.

## Guidelines for Writing Homework

Please follow these guidelines when completing homework assignments.

It makes my grading experience much more pleasant ☺

1. Complete all homework assignments on a **separate sheet of paper**. You **may use both sides** of the paper. Do NOT complete assignments on the pages of your textbook.
2. **Staple** all homework in the upper left hand corner. Don't depend on me to have a stapler.
3. **Label** your homework with your name, course number, and HW section number in the upper right hand corner (See example below)
4. Write your problems in order **down** the page. **Skip a line** between problems.
5. **Circle, box, or highlight** your answers to each exercise so I can find your answer quickly.
6. Please use **pencil** when writing your homework, and please write legibly and neatly. Presentation is a component of your homework score.
7. Be sure to **show your work** when solving a problem. A problem with just the answer and no work shown will receive NO CREDIT.
8. **Cut or tear off** any frilly edges on paper torn from a notebook.
9. When creating a graph, you **must** use **graph paper and a ruler** or you will get a zero on the assignment.

Staple in upper  
left corner.

Ima Student  
Math 40  
1.2

HW 1.2: 4, 11, 20, 41

4. Solve  $-26x + 84 = 48$

$$-26x + 84 = 48$$

$$-26x = 36$$

$$x = -\frac{36}{26}$$

11. Solve  $19x + 35 = 10$

$$19x + 35 = 10$$

$$19x = -25$$

$$x = -\frac{25}{19}$$

20. Solve  $-8 - 8(x - 3) = 5(x + 9) + 7$

$$-8 - 8(x - 3) = 5(x + 9) + 7$$

$$-8 - 8x + 24 = 5x + 45 + 7$$

$$-8x + 16 = 5x + 52$$

$$-13x = 36$$

$$x = -\frac{36}{13}$$

41. Solve  $Ax + By = C$  for  $y$

$$Ax + By = C$$

$$By = C - Ax$$

$$y = \frac{C - Ax}{B}$$

## Reference Book Guidelines

**Your reference/composition notebook has many useful purposes:**

- It helps you **study for exams** by *re-writing* in-class notes and determining what information is important to YOU.
- **It improves overall organization** of notes.
- **You can use your book on quizzes and Exam 3** provided you turn it in to be graded for in-class exams and keep it up to date (no use on final exam).
- You can use it in your **future math courses!**

### Requirements:

- You should purchase a **composition notebook**...graph paper is best, but a lined one will do just fine. You can also use a regular spiral bound notebook.
- This book should be **SEPARATE from your in-class notebook** unless given approval to use your regular in class notes.
- **Write your name and contact info inside of front cover.** In case you lose your book, you should have your name and an email address or phone number or address.
- **Skip at least 3** pages in the beginning of your book for a Table of Contents (more if you write big). Here you should include description of the material you have written on a page, and the page number.
- **Number your pages** in the top right, or lower left.
- **Summarize concepts** you have learned using your own words. Make notes to yourself about strategies used, proper notation and your common mistakes.
- You must **write “a little something” from EACH section.** Even if you “know it already.” At the end of the semester, come the last exam, things that you know in the beginning of the semester, you may no longer have memorized.
- Your reference book will be **collected DURING Exams** and graded as a written homework. It will be worth **10 points each time it is graded.**

### Helpful Hints:

- **Do a little bit at a time.** Do not try to cram everything in there the night before the exam. Have your book out when you are doing homework and maybe jot down a particularly challenging example you encounter. In class, sometimes I will say “you might want to put this in your comp book.” Put a star by that info and copy it into book **right after** of class so you remember.
- **Use colors!** Maybe write/highlight definitions in green, examples in purple, important things to remember in red...and so on. Be creative!
- **Don't write/highlight too much** as it will be difficult to find what you're looking for during the Final Exam.
- **Make it YOURS!** Use colors, doodle in it, make it pretty but try to keep it neat 😊