

Algebra and Elementary Functions

Dr. Pete Goetz

Office: BSS 358

Office Hours: MWF 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

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<http://users.humboldt.edu/pgoetz/115.htm>**Time and Place:**

Lecture	MWF	8:00am - 8:50am	FH 118	CRN 46985
Discussion(s)	R	8:00am - 8:50am	HGH 106	
	R	9:00am - 9:50am	HGH 106	
	R	10:00am - 10:50am	HGH 106	
	R	2:00pm - 2:50pm	WFB 250	
	R	3:00pm - 3:50pm	ARTA 027	

Course Description: Functions and their graphs; polynomial and rational functions; in-depth treatment of exponential and logarithmic functions; trigonometry: trigonometric functions, identities, solving triangles. We will cover chapters 2 through 7 (chapter 1 is review). Weekly: 3 hours lecture and 1 hour discussion.

Pre-requisite: HSU MATH 42, or math code 40, or MATH 44.

Required Text: E. Swokowski and J. Cole, *Precalculus: Functions and Graphs* (11th ed.), Thompson Brooks/Cole 2008 with “Enhanced WebAssign”.

You have two options to choose from for your text / WebAssign license set up:

- (1) **Traditional Text and Enhanced WebAssign.** A hardbound version of the text is available at the HSU bookstore or from your favorite purveyor of texts. You are also required to separately purchase a license for Enhanced WebAssign. You may do this at the HSU bookstore, or online at www.webassign.net. In either case, **the Enhanced WebAssign license is required for the course.**
- (2) **E-Book and Enhanced WebAssign.** You may opt to purchase an e-book version of the text instead. You can purchase one either from the HSU bookstore or from a link from www.webassign.net when you are purchasing your WebAssign license. The e-book from the bookstore comes bundled with access to Enhanced WebAssign. The e-book is less expensive than the traditional text, and it also gives you additional features in WebAssign. Unlike the traditional text, you cannot “keep” the e-book for reference and you need Internet access to use it.

Calculators: Although they are not required, I strongly encourage you to get a graphing calculator for this course. I would **never** suggest that a calculator be used to replace understanding a topic. Rather, a calculator can **deepen your understanding of a mathematical idea**. That is, the amount of mathematical investigation that can be done in a limited time greatly increases with a graphing calculator, and we learn when we investigate and “play”. I recommend having a Texas Instruments calculator, and in particular, if you are planning to take calculus after this course, I recommend a *TI89*. A *TI83* is sufficient for this course. I will use both a *TI89* and a *TI83* in class. Please note that **calculator usage will be limited on all exams**.

Students With Disabilities: Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center in House 71, 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://pine.humboldt.edu/registrar/students/regulations/schedadjust.html>

<http://pine.humboldt.edu/reg/pdf/CalendarOfActivitiesF11.pdf>

WebAssign Homework: WebAssign homework problems will be assigned each lecture period with **due dates posted on WebAssign** and **strictly enforced**. It is your responsibility to ensure that each WebAssign problem solution is submitted on time for credit. **I will not accept any late homework, for any reason whatsoever, so do not request that I do so. Please be aware that the homework for this class will take a great deal of time and effort, and therefore I advise you begin working on an assignment as soon as it is made.** As in all mathematics classes, the topics we cover will build on each other, and consequently, getting behind on homework assignments can create an enormous amount of difficulty in digesting the newer topics. Questions about homework problems should be addressed during the Thursday discussion sessions or during my office hours. **Your lowest 5 homework scores will be dropped before I calculate your final course grade.**

Quizzes: In addition to the WebAssign homework, there will also be weekly quizzes. These will be given 10 minutes after the beginning of the discussion section meeting time. The quizzes will be timed (15-20 minutes typically). I will tell you in class, several days prior to the quiz, which section(s) you will need to study to prepare for the quizzes. **Your lowest quiz score will be dropped before I calculate your final course grade.** It is your responsibility to make sure you attend the discussion sections to take the quizzes on time; **very few exceptions will be made for make-up quizzes.**

Exams: We will have three in-class exams during the semester, in addition to a **cumulative final examination**. Please see below for the dates and times of the examinations. You should mark these dates in your calendar now, and plan accordingly, as **all exams will be given only at the scheduled times below, no exceptions (so don't ask)**. Note that the first exam falls on the Friday (September 16, 2011) prior to the last day to drop the class without a serious and compelling reason (September 19, 2011). Exams will consist of problems similar to those discussed in lecture, the homework assignments, and the quiz problems. Exam questions will tend to be routine and designed to check for basic skill mastery. Consequently, **very little to no partial credit will be awarded on exam questions.**

Exam Dates:

Exam 1	Friday	September 16	
Exam 2	Friday	October 21	
Exam 3	Friday	November 18	
Final	Monday	December 12 (8:00 am - 9:50 am)	

Weighted Grading Components:

WebAssign Homework:	10%	A	$92\% \leq \text{your total} \leq 100\%$
Quizzes:	15%	A-	$90\% \leq \text{your total} < 92\%$
Midterm 1:	10%	B+	$87\% \leq \text{your total} < 90\%$
Midterm 2:	20%	B	$82\% \leq \text{your total} < 87\%$
Midterm 3:	20%	B-	$80\% \leq \text{your total} < 82\%$
Final Exam:	25%	C+	$77\% \leq \text{your total} < 80\%$
		C	$68\% \leq \text{your total} < 77\%$
		C-	$64\% \leq \text{your total} < 68\%$
		D	$55\% \leq \text{your total} < 64\%$
		F	$0\% \leq \text{your total} < 55\%$

Some advice: Work daily and discuss your work with your colleagues. Mathematics **is** a social subject, but it **is not** a spectator sport. Keeping up with the daily assignments is really the best (the only!) way to learn the mathematics. **Read your text**, and investigate interesting ideas. The lectures are only a **tiny** amount of the time required to master the material in this course. To be successful, you must read the material in your text and homework assignments ahead of time and repeatedly. You must discuss it with me and/or your colleagues, so that you can fully digest the ideas. In general, it is expected that students will spend three to four hours working on this material outside of class for each hour that we meet in class.

Tutoring for Math 115:

There are drop-in help sessions at the Learning Center, Library Room 208.

http://www.humboldt.edu/learning/math_tutoring_lab.php

The Learning Center's Tutorial Lab offers free tutoring to small groups and can also arrange one-on-one tutoring.

http://www.humboldt.edu/learning/tutorial_services.php

Additionally, the Math Department Office, BSS 320, has a list of math tutors.

Remember, if you need extra help, **get it before it is too late!**

Finally, some comments about what you should expect from me, and what I expect from you in this course. My responsibilities include coming to class prepared to teach you pre-calculus, giving clear lectures, assigning carefully chosen homework problems that are relevant to our course and carefully preparing quiz and exam questions that accurately measure your progress in the course. Additionally, I am available to you outside of class for consultation in office hours and by appointment. I also hope to share with you my passion for mathematics, and teaching mathematics!

Likewise, I expect you to come to class motivated to learn the material. This involves keeping up with homework assignments, and seeking additional help, either from me or from the many resources available to you here on campus, before it is too late. I believe, in addition to my responsibilities listed above, that you the student are ultimately responsible for your university education and what you take from it. In particular, I expect that you are committed to taking this course this semester, and you understand that this means that you are required to be here during the class meeting time in order to complete the requirements for the course. It is crucial that we have a mutual respect for one another as members of the University community and that we conduct ourselves accordingly. Here are some links to the University's information on these matters.

Academic honesty: Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding academic honesty:

http://www.humboldt.edu/studentrights/academic_honesty.php

<http://pine.humboldt.edu/registrar/catalog/documents/sections/regulations.pdf>

Attendance and disruptive behavior: Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding attendance and disruptive behavior:

http://www.humboldt.edu/studentrights/attendance_behavior.php

Email Communication: I expect that our email communications will be professional and respectful. In particular, email sent to me should begin with a proper salutation ("Dear Dr. Goetz" will do) and end with your (full) name. Moreover the content of the email should be limited to matters related to our class and written in a style appropriate for communicating with University faculty. I will in turn offer the same courtesy in my communications to you. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in your mail being ignored without comment. Mail containing offensive or inappropriate content will be forwarded to the office of Student Affairs. Finally, you must allow for sufficient time for a reply to an email. In general, email is not a good form of last minute communication.

Finally, in case of an emergency, you may want to read through the following information as well.

Emergency evacuation: Please review the evacuation plan for the classroom (posted on the orange signs), and review

http://www.humboldt.edu/emergencymgmtprogram/campus_emergency_preparedness.php

for information on campus Emergency Procedures. During an emergency, information can be found campus conditions at: 826-INFO or www.humboldt.edu/emergency

Having said all of that, let's wish each other good luck for the semester and get down to business! Cheers!