

MATH 110: FUNCTIONS AND ALGEBRAIC METHODS

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Davis Doherty
Office: Bannan 216
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Text: *Algebra for College Students*, by Mark Dugopolski

Course Web Site: <http://classes.seattleu.edu/mathematics/math-110/doherty/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will study functions, and use functions to create simple models of real-world problems. We shall focus on practicing the skills necessary to properly manipulate algebraic expressions and equations. Emphasis will be placed on showing your methods and presenting your solutions in a clear manner.

For some of you, Math 110 will fulfill a prerequisite for future math and science courses. For the rest of you, Math 110 will be the intellectual equivalent of weightlifting – a skill you won't use directly, but which trains your brain for other tasks.

I'll add that MATH 110 can be used to satisfy the Seattle University Core mathematics requirement.

HOMEWORK

Homework is the most important part of this course – if you don't complete the assignments on time, I guarantee you will struggle with the quizzes and exams. Assignments will be posted on the course website, and will be collected Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. One assignment each week will be graded (usually the one collected Monday); the others will be marked for credit. Assignments can be turned in one class session past the due date for partial credit.

Instructions for turned-in assignments (these make them easier to grade):

- (a) Put your name in the upper right corner of the page, together with your section time.
- (b) Staple your assignment. I will not have a stapler handy when it's time to turn it in.
- (c) Do the problems neatly, and in order.
- (d) Show your work, otherwise you won't receive credit.

QUIZZES AND EXAMS

Every Friday you should be prepared for either a quiz or an exam. Quizzes are primarily a test that you understood the week's homework assignments – problems will be very similar

to (more basic) assigned homework problems. Exams will feature more difficult problems in addition to basic ones; this allows me to test the depth of your understanding.

GRADES

Course grades are determined as follows:

15%	Homework
25%	Quizzes
35%	Midterms
25%	Final Exam

There will be little or no opportunity for extra credit in this class.

ABSENCES

Except in extraordinary cases, you can only make up a missed quiz or exam if you contact me by the end of the day it was given. Please make arrangements with me if you know in advance you'll be missing a test.

SUCCESS IN CLASS

Here are some tips for success in this course:

- (1) We will move quickly. Keep up with the material. If you have trouble, get help – visit the Math Lab or my office hours, or work with other students.
- (2) Read the book, preferably *before* lecture. I won't always go into full detail, or get through every type of example.
- (3) Work on the homework as soon as it is assigned. Do problems every day.
- (4) Ask questions in class if you're confused.
- (5) Save your homework assignments after they're returned, so you can refer back to them when it's time to study.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Textbook Sections
Week 1	1.1–1.6
Week 2	2.1–2.5
Week 3	3.1–3.5
Week 4	4.1–4.4
Midterm 1	October 19 (Review October 17)
Week 5/6	5.1–5.8
Week 7	6.1–6.7
Week 8	7.1–7.6
Midterm 2	November 16 (Review November 14)
Week 9/10	8.1–8.5
Week 10	9.1, 9.5, 11.1
Final Exam	Tuesday, December 11, 10–11:50 (11am section) Friday, December 14, 10–11:50 (12:15pm section)