

MATH 120: PRECALCULUS:ALGEBRA

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Davis Doherty
Office: Bannan 216
Office Hours: MW 2-3:30, WF 9:30-10:30, or by appointment
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Text: *Precalculus, Functions and Graphs*, by Mark Dugopolski

Course Web Site: <http://fac-staff.seattleu.edu/dohertyd/web/Math120>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As the name suggests, this course aims to prepare you for calculus. We shall focus on modeling and problem-solving skills, as well as gaining proficiency with a graphing calculator. Emphasis will be placed on showing your methods and presenting your solutions in a clear manner.

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. There may be an occasional group quiz. 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	A2, A5
Week 2	1.1-1.5
Week 3	1.6, 1.7, B, 2.1, 2.2
Week 4	2.3-2.5
Midterm 1	October 19 (Review October 17)
Week 5	2.6, 3.1-3.4
Week 6	3.5-3.7, 4.1, 4.2
Week 7	4.3, 4.4, 8.1-8.4
Week 8	7.1-7.6
Midterm 2	November 19 – Monday! (Review November 16)
Week 9	9.1, 10.1-10.3, 11.1, 11.2
Week 10	11.3-11.7
Final Exam	Thursday, December 13, 4-4:50