Augusta University – Spring 2016
MATH 1113 Section B Precalculus
TuTh 8:30-9:45am – University Hall room 330

Instructor: Dr. Robert Scott, rscott5@gru.edu
Office Location and Telephone: Allgood Hall room N327, 706-667-4032
Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30pm, TuTh 10:10-10:40am, F 11:00-11:50am, or by appointment

Course Description: A rigorous study of polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, primarily intended to prepare science and mathematics majors for calculus. Prerequisite(s): MATH 1111 (grade of C or better) or placement.

Required Text, Calculator and Other Materials:

- On-line access to Desire2Learn (D2L) at no cost, available through the Augusta University home page or at this URL: https://lms.gru.edu/. There is a “file folder” for each week of class, and you should review its contents weekly before Monday’s (or Tuesday’s) class.

- **You must purchase access to the online homework.**
  - A personal access code is sold with the textbook if you purchase the text through the University bookstore. The program is set up through your online access to D2L and is called MyLab/Mastering, also known as MyMathLab and as CourseCompass. You will not need the CD that comes bundled with textbook; all you really need is the access code or a credit card to purchase access online, and the first step is to access it via D2L. Please use your Augusta University email address when you set up your online access. You can access this at no cost for fourteen days, in case you are waiting for your student loans to come through, but you will need access starting the first day of classes.
  - Note that you may already have an access code and not need to purchase another! This will be the case if you were enrolled in either Math 1111 or Math 1113 for Fall Semester 2015 and registered for that course (with a purchased access code) in MyMathLab.

- Textbook: Blitzer Algebra and Trigonometry, Fifth Edition. This is the same textbook used in Fall Semester, 2015, for the MATH 1111 College Algebra course, so if you have the book from that course you will not need to purchase a new one. The text is sold in a looseleaf version by the University bookstore as well as through amazon.com. There are several pricing options if you order the book from Amazon. Also, note that you can get an online version of the textbook at no additional cost once you have access to MyLab/Mastering through D2L. This online textbook access is also available during the no-cost 14-day introductory period.

- Any scientific graphing calculator. NOTE: I am familiar with the TI-83/84 calculator series; if you purchase a different calculator, then make sure you know how to use it and/or have the instruction manual!

Recommended but not required:

- Student Solutions Manual for assigned textbook, available through the publisher (under the Related Materials tab) for around $45.00.
**Organization of the Course:** We will cover portions of Chapters 2 and 3 not covered in MATH 1111 as well as Chapters 4 through 7 in the textbook, with an emphasis on textbook examples / homework / problem solving.

**Attendance policy:** Absences are discussed in the Augusta University Student Manual, Section 3.4 of that manual states that “if the student has been absent for more than the equivalent of 10 percent of class time, regardless of cause, then the professor may withdraw the student from the class for excessive absences.” For our course that meets only twice a week, there are 30 class sessions. If you have missed more than 3 of the scheduled class meetings and have an overall grade of “D” or “F” on or after midterm (this semester, that's Monday, March 7th), expect to be dropped from the course.

**Get to know one another:** Students who reflect on what they do and communicate with others about it are in the best position to build useful connections in mathematics. Among other things, that means that working together whenever you can will pay off in the long run. To that end, you are urged to make friends with students in this class. If you are absent from class, your friends will be very happy to lend you their notes to copy! I encourage you to write down the names of two of your class friends and their contact information your first day of class.

**Special Circumstances:** Students with disabilities who believe they may need academic accommodations are encouraged to speak with me after class. They will also need to contact Testing and Disability Services (TDS) (Galloway Hall; 706-737-1469; http://www.gru.edu/admin/tds/) as soon as possible for more information, including how to initiate the process.

**Self-Assessments** are very short, non-mathematical assignments designed to enable you to tell me one-on-one how you are doing the first six weeks of class. They are found in the weekly D2L folders. Don’t forget these short assignments, as they count as part of your grade!

**Grading Weights:** There will be four tests plus one scheduled make-up test. Each test will contribute 10% of your final grade, so altogether they make up 40% of your final grade. We will discuss how the make-up test works in class. The Final Exam counts 33% of your grade. The other 27% of your grade consists of homework assignments, both on-line (10%) and turn-in (10%), quizzes (5%), and self-assessments (2%). In calculating these grades, your lowest four (4) on-line homework assignments, four (4) quizzes, and two (2) self-assessments will be “dropped” and won’t count in your average. Note that all of your turn-in homework assignments count toward your grade, and none of those are “dropped.” Make sure you don’t inadvertently miss completing any homework assignments!

**Grading Scale:** In grading your work, I round grades off to the nearest integer percentage.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
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**Attendance Bonus:** If you have at most two absences (excused or otherwise) during the entire semester, then you get an extra 2% added to your overall final grade for the course.
How to do well in this course:

Dedicate sufficient time to your studies.

I appreciate the fact that being a full-time student is not easy. Many of you have a part-time job outside of school in order to help pay for your education, some of you are on athletic teams, and some of you also have family responsibilities. I also realize that you are taking several courses in addition to Precalculus. You will benefit from this course in proportion to what put into it – and occasionally that means making hard decisions. While you are a full-time student, you should consider that to be your primary occupation and arrange your working hours, athletic endeavors, and other commitments around the time needed to succeed in class – and not the other way around.

Read the assignments in the textbook before class.

There is a class schedule attached to this syllabus, and the latest version of that schedule will always be available to you on D2L. That schedule is your reading assignment each class day, to be completed before we go over the material in class. There are several reasons for this, including:

- We won’t always have class time to go over all of the material in the assigned sections of the textbook. Reading through the section or sections and going through the example problems before class will enable you to ask questions about those concepts and examples you need the most help to understand. The rest of the material we can review more rapidly or skip over entirely. You will need to have read through the text sections to understand the concepts we will cover, and to know what questions to ask.
- There will be frequent quizzes usually at the beginning of class, to check your grasp of the textbook concepts. Unless you have read through the assigned readings, you will not know what material will be on the quiz!
- To understand the material fully, you will find it helpful to read through the sections again following class before beginning your homework.

Always do your homework.

College courses generally require two to three hours of preparation for each hour of class time. If you want to get the best grade you can, you will need to complete every assignment to the fullest extent of your ability. Don’t copy it from someone else, don’t fake your way through it; do it. This is especially true if you find a certain topic difficult; in math, the only way to learn is for you to work your way through any difficulties, instead of avoiding them.

Of course, to do your homework effectively and efficiently, you must not only do the reading, both before and again after class; you must also attend class and ask questions. The homework that goes with each class isn’t just a sideshow or addendum to class; the homework is the main event. Online homework is accessed through the MyLab / Mastering section of D2L. MyLab/Mastering includes several versions of multimedia help as well as the textbook itself; you are urged to explore its features the first week of class.
In addition to the online homework there will be one written (turn-in) homework assignment for each chapter of the textbook. You can find these assignments in the appropriate week’s folder on D2L. In general, you can turn in this homework early, but late turn-in assignments will not be accepted unless you ask me 24 hours in advance or you have a true emergency. Send me an email if that is the case.

A final tip is:

**Use my Office Hours and the Math Assistance Center (MAC) when you need help.**

The MAC is on the 3rd Floor of Allgood Hall, room N304, just around the corner from my office. It is a no-cost option for you to get assistance or tutoring anytime they are open – which is generally from around 8am to 8pm Monday through Thursday, and until around 1pm on Friday. The tutors are experienced students (generally math majors) who are paid by the Math Department to be there to help you. **Feel free to use them not only for studying but also for any homework problems you may encounter.** To me, your “graded homework” (including occasional “take-home quizzes”) needs to be your work – but you should feel free get help in completing these assignments. If there are any exceptions to this, I’ll let you know in each case. And don’t forget that my office is right around the corner from the MAC – so drop by if I’m in, whether or not it is my “official” Office Hours.

**Communicating with me.** My office phone number is at the top of this syllabus, and I can retrieve office voice mails wherever I am. I prefer not to distribute my cell number to students (I’m sure you can understand why), so that pretty much eliminates my ability to exchange text messages with you. But I do check email frequently, and it is automatically forwarded to my smart phone. I will only respond to emails from your Augusta University email account, so please don’t contact me via gmail.com / hotmail.com / att.net, etc. Per Augusta University Policy, you also need to check your Augusta University email account daily, as that is how I will generally communicate with you outside of class. There are several websites to give you pointers on college student email etiquette; I recommend you review them periodically. If I had to pick out two etiquette points that are most important to me, they would be (1) always use your school email address (gru.edu) and not a personal address, and (2) always put a subject line on your email that includes your course and section. I’ll add a third: (3) be patient. I’ll generally answer your email in 24 hours or less, but not necessarily before then. **My Office Hours** are on the top of this syllabus. I recommend you make an appointment to see me in my office sometime the first three weeks of the semester, whether you need help or not, so you will see where it is and we can get to know a little bit more about each other.

**Technology in the Classroom:** You may use tablet or laptop computers in class (except during quizzes and tests) for academic purposes only, but not cellphones. In order to avoid the temptation to text, please turn cell phones off (not just “vibrate” or “silent ring” but really “off” or “airplane mode”) during class. Reading or sending text messages or checking social media during class is impolite and interferes with your participation in class. If your employer or child care requires you to be on call during class, please inform me in writing and we’ll work something out.

- Any use of any of these devices during a test or quiz will result in a score of zero (“0”).
- If you absolutely need to receive or make a call during class hours, please leave the classroom. Expect to be asked to leave the classroom if this happens unexpectedly.

**Withdrawing From This Course:** If you decide to withdraw, please discuss your situation with me first. Note that University policy is that a student can withdraw before midterm (March 7th this semester) without penalty; any withdrawal after that point will be “Withdraw Failing” and will adversely affect your academic record.