MATH 1113L - Precalculus Spring 2016
COURSE INFORMATION
Instructor: Dr. Cornelius Stallmann (office: Allgood Hall N325, phone: 667-4482, e-mail: cstallma@gru.edu)
Meeting Times and Location: TR 4:00 - 5:15 pm UH 330
Office Hours: W 3:00 - 5:00 pm, TR 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm, or by appointment

Introduction:
Depending on your major, Precalculus is either a required terminal math course or a preparation for calculus. In either case, it is an extensive study of the functions that you might see in a calculus course or maybe even in real life.

Goals:
The goal of this course is that you will be prepared for calculus. This requires that you have a thorough understanding of functions of many different varieties. It also requires that you have a thorough understanding of trigonometry, a topic which we will spend more than half of the term on.

What is required of the student? You will be required to read, think carefully, solve problems, present solutions of problems to the rest of the class, and provide written solutions to problems that you or others have solved together with careful explanation of your solutions. This class will be taught using an inquiry based approach. Instead of being shown how to do something and then doing it, you will instead be ask to independently and in cooperation with other students come up with solutions to carefully crafted problems that will be made available throughout the semester. You may sometimes find that you are unable to get started on a particular problem. When this happens you should first carefully reread the problem. Perhaps there are words that you do not understand. If so, you should see if they are defined in the notes you have been given. You may find that you need to read the definition several times before you fully understand the word. You may need to draw some pictures or do some calculations in order to fully understand the definition. Just keep trying. Usually you will find that just carefully reading the problem and carefully reviewing any definitions that were not clear will help you tremendously in making progress. If you are still having problems understanding what is being asked in a particular problem you might be tempted to seek outside help. Because one of my goals for you is that you learn to become more independent and confident in your own problem solving abilities, I want you to avoid the kind of help in which someone else essentially tells you how to solve the problem. This does nothing for you. It only keeps you from becoming a better problem solver. It is perfectly OK to ask someone to help you with concepts, techniques, and ideas that are prerequisites for this course, for example the material that is typically covered in a college algebra course, a high school geometry course or any other math course that might come before precalculus. Just don't ask someone else to solve the problems for you or look at a video that gives you a step by step solution method. You are always welcome to come ask me for help on anything relating to the course. My office hours are indicated above. If you are unable to see me during office hours I will be happy to try to schedule another time that works for both of us.
Grades:
Your grades will be determined as follows:

You will have a midterm exam on March 1 during our regular class period and in our regular classroom that will count 20% of your grade. You will have a final exam from 5:00 - 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 5 that will count 30% of your grade. The final is comprehensive and departmental. The remaining 50% of your grade will come from work that you present at the board in class or turn in to me in written form.

It will be your goal to be able to work every problem in the problem sequence. For grading purposes you will be given credit for the problems that you present at the board as well as carefully written solutions to problems that have been presented in class. Problems presented at the board will be graded on a 3 point scale. Exceptionally difficult problems or exceptionally good presentations may earn you more than 3 points. Exceptionally insightful comments during class discussions may also qualify you for points. You should keep a notebook in which you write down careful and complete solutions together with written explanations for every problem that we work in class. A completed notebook with correct solutions and detailed explanations will earn you 30 points. I will take up notebooks several times during the semester so that you can have feedback on your work. I reserve the right to give you other opportunities to earn points. A total of 50 points will give you a perfect score for this portion of your grade, but it is possible that you can earn more than 50 points. I reserve the right to limit point totals above 50 to a reasonable level. The number of points you earn will simply be added to your midterm grade times 0.2 and your final exam grade times 0.3 to give you a numerical grade on a 100 point scale which can then be translated to a letter grade using:

90-100 A  
80-89  B  
70-79  C  
60-69  D  
0-59   F

The 3 point scale for problems presented at the board or written solutions follows:

3 - You have a correct and carefully explained solution.  
2 - You have some minor errors or incomplete or inadequate explanations.  
1 - You have major errors or explanations are completely absent.  
0 - You did not turn in anything or there is not enough progress toward a solution to warrant any credit.  

I reserve the right to change the grading scheme if I believe that it will promote a better learning environment. I will let you know, and solicit your input, if I feel a change might be warranted. I will never make such a change, however, if the only purpose is to improve individual or class grades.
**Attendance:**
Attendance is expected at all class meetings. I will withdraw you from my class if you miss more than 3 class periods. You are responsible for any work that you missed during an absence. Please come see me as soon as possible if you have missed a class or if you need to miss a future class. Three late arrivals or early departures will count for one absence.

**Withdrawal:**
The deadline for withdrawal with a grade of W is **March 7**. Any withdrawal after that date will result in a WF. If you feel that you must withdraw please try to do so on or before **March 7**.

**Make-ups:**
You will not be permitted to make up any written assignments or problems presented at the board. Make-ups for the midterm exam will be given only in exceptional cases (such as illness or family emergencies). You must notify me immediately when such an emergency arises and you must provide written evidence of your emergency. If an emergency requires you to miss the final exam you will receive a grade of I (incomplete) for the semester. A make-up will be scheduled for the following semester. After completing the make-up, your grade will be changed to reflect your score on the make-up final.

**Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices**

The use of cell phones and other mobile electronic devices during class is not permitted. You will be expected to put your cell-phones, tablets, laptops, game consoles, and other electronic devices in silent mode when you come to class and put them out of sight during class. This means that you will put them in your purse, your backpack, or some other bag or container that will keep them from being seen during the class. Any violation of this policy will result in a 2 point deduction from your final semester average.