

Instructor: Dr. M.B. Ulmer

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Office hours: MWF 10:00 - 10:50, TuTh 10:50 - 11:40

Also by appointment or by "heyyougottaminute?".

(I will be coming from a class just before office hours. If I am late, please be patient. Students often have questions after class. Note that there are **no office hours during final exams**. Ask your questions early!)

Text: *Explorations in College Algebra*, 3rd Ed., by Kime, Clark and Michael. Initial plans are to cover selected sections from Chapters 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,and 3 (in that order).

Web Site: <http://faculty.uscupstate.edu/mulmer> which has a link to your course page and to the Problem-Based Instruction site. Notice that the site address has no "www" in it!

Calculator and software: A graphing calculator is required. Preferred calculators (supported by the instructor) are the TI-83, TI-83Plus, TI-84 or (least preferred) TI-82. You may use other models and brands only if you take full responsibility for being able to perform all required tasks. Most calculators do not have the same capabilities as those listed, and using another calculator is much like trying to learn from a textbook different from that used in the class.

Catalog Description (Partial): (3) Equations, inequalities, graphing, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and other functions, ... systems of equations.

Course Objective: This "A" or "augmented" version of SMTH 121 is designed to assist those who wish or require additional assistance learning college algebra. The objectives include learning the topics in the catalog description, learning some uses for those topics and preparing for success in a subsequent course in statistics or business calculus.

Makeup Tests are given only for good reasons, and at the instructor's convenience. Athletes and others who must miss class for University sponsored events should notify the instructor several days in advance.

Attendance and attentiveness: This class meets every weekday. A maximum of five classes may be missed. In reality, a student who misses even one session puts himself or herself at a severe disadvantage. Significant content is covered each period. You are responsible for all material covered and work assigned during an absence. Excessive tardiness is disruptive to the class, and detrimental in the same way as absence, and so, **excessive tardiness will be considered absence**. Cell phones are not to be used in class. A student who uses a cell phone in class will be given a zero daily grade. (If you have an emergency situation that requires that you keep your cell phone on, notify the instructor *before class*.)

Grading: There will be at least 3 hour tests and a comprehensive final exam counting the weight of two more tests. A portfolio grade will carry the weight of another hour test.

Daily grades derived from in-class performance and pop quizzes may be used to determine the final letter grade in borderline cases. (For example, a 79 test average and

excellent daily work will result in a B in the course.) [Note: If you are assigned to solve a problem at the board, only three grades are possible – 100, 50 or 0. A grade of 100 is earned for displaying work that you have previously attempted (even if it is wrong). A grade of 0 is earned if you cannot attempt the problem or if you are absent when your name is called. A grade of 50 is earned if you are knowledgeable enough to attempt the problem, but have not prepared a solution in advance.]

Grading Scale: 100-90% = A; 89-80% = B; 79-70% = C; 69-60%=D; Below 60% = F. "Plus" grades may be awarded for high B, C, or D final grades if work is judged meritorious by some measure not anticipated by the above specifications.

Last day to withdraw without penalty: Thursday, 29 March.

Notes: 1. Any student having a physical or learning disability requiring modifications of the instructional or testing environment, methods, or format, must inform the instructor of such disability the first day of class to allow time to address the modifications.
2. This is a tentative syllabus. Modifications may be necessary as we progress.