

M121Q, Spring 2017, Section 801: *College Algebra Online*

Since this class has no lecture time, there are some significant differences compared to a normal class. Anticipate spending quite a bit of time on your computer. I will check email at least once per work-week day to answer questions. But, it is mostly up to you to acquire the knowledge you need from the excellent E-book and videos that we have recorded, along with filling in structured *Student Video Notes* that you are required to purchase from the MSU bookstore. (I will provide you with an electronic copy of the R-Chapter of the *Student Video Notes* so that you can get started immediately.) NOTE: It is much less expensive to buy the *SVN* from the bookstore than to pay for ink and paper to print it out yourself!

Despite the course being online, you will not learn if you do not put pencil to paper and work problems yourself!

1. You should work all of the “You Try It” problems in the Student Video Notes. You can check yourself by looking at answers to the YTI problems in the back of the *SVN* packet.
2. Work all online homework problems on paper first, and then enter answers in My Math Lab (MML).
3. ****Very Helpful**** I will provide you with copies of the worksheets that are used in TEAL sections and their solutions.
4. ****Important!**** I will provide you with practice exams and their solutions. These are the best and most important way to prepare for the pencil & paper exams that you will take.

All of the support resources that are mentioned in #3 and #4 will be posted in D2L. You should regularly check within the appropriate folders in *Content* to find them.

The course is NOT an independent study / self-paced course in which you just need to have everything completed by the end of the semester. Each assignment (including watching videos) and quiz has a date and time by which it must be completed. **Pay attention to due dates in MML!**

In addition, you will be expected to respond to discussion questions via D2L. You will be graded on your responses to posted prompts / questions, on reading what others have to say, on posting questions / comments, and on responding to other students’ questions / comments. Watch for an email / news announcement in D2L regarding this.

You will need an online access code for My Math Lab. It can be purchased with your textbook via the MSU bookstore or via pearsonmylab.com. (You can buy the text and *Student Video Notes* online from the MSU bookstore if you are out of town). The access code and the book cost only a few dollars more than buying the access code separately. You then have the added convenience of a free soft-cover version of the text. OR, if you prefer, buy the code online and use the E-book. It has many special features such as built-in videos and example problems that can be worked and graded online.

To register into MyMathLab, follow the directions on the MML Registration Handout that you should have already received in a previous email OR download it from D2L.

Only use Firefox or Chrome as a browser!

Others will eventually cause problems with MML, even if they work initially.

**Make sure you use an email address with MML that you will regularly check!!
I will send important emails to you through MML.**

Online Homework: I will use the term “lesson” to refer to the things you must accomplish for each section in the book. A *lesson* is an online Homework grouping that will be composed of three things – each of which count toward your course Homework average.

1. Watch a series of *videos* by MSU Math instructors while taking notes in the *Student Video Notes* (purchase from the bookstore in-person or online). At the conclusion of each video, click on *Submit* to get credit for watching the video. It will be far more beneficial if you attempt the You-Try-It problems after each video!! The video assignments have due dates. You can earn at most 80% credit for videos that are watched after their due dates.
2. Work through a set *prerequisite questions* – a small number of problems about material you should understand before beginning the HW problem set component. For most problems you will have as

many tries as you want to get them correct. However, you are only allowed two attempts to answer multiple choice questions. Your ability to access and work HW problems will be connected to getting the prerequisite problems correct.

(At this point I recommend that you read the corresponding section in the E-book. Stop and work each example on paper and pencil. Also attempt any additional online problems associated examples.)

3. Complete the *HW problem set*. Most problems will allow three attempts (except multiple choice problems). If you do not get a problem correct in three attempts, you can click on "Similar Problem" and have three more attempts. You can do this two times for a total of nine tries (except multiple choice which have two attempts to answer one question). Like watching videos, you can earn up to 80% credit for homework problems that are completed after their due date.

Online Quizzes: For every 2 or three sections in the text there will be an online quiz. These are timed and you are allowed only one chance to answer each question, though you get two tries at each quiz. To access the quizzes, click on "Quizzes (graded) & Practice Tests (not graded)" within the menu bar that runs down the left side of the main course page. Quizzes also have due dates and times. **** You will not be able to work on quizzes after their due dates unless you have contacted me to get an extension.****

I recommend you take quizzes like you would an open book, open note quiz in class. You CAN use your book and your notes. You will not know if a problem is right or wrong until after you submit the quiz. You have two attempts at each quiz. Since quizzes are timed, it is not wise to try to look up too many things. A timer will count down the time on your screen. Your score will be available as soon as you exit the quiz.

Paper & Pencil Exams: There will be three major exams, two mini-exams, and one comprehensive final exam. These will NOT be online. They will be the same exams that are taken by other M121 students in face-to-face sections. **You will come to the MSU campus to take exams. If you are not located in the Bozeman area, you must locate a testing service facility in your vicinity.** See the syllabus. Also, watch for an email / news item in D2L regarding this.

The first mini-exam occurs Monday 1/24 OR Tuesday 1/25, so if you cannot come to Bozeman, you must:

- 1) Contact me immediately to let me know your location.
- 2) Identify appropriate proctor services ASAP!!
- 3) File the appropriate paperwork with MSU's Extended University ASAP!!

Be sure to bring a picture ID with you when you come to take an exam. The proctor will not give the exam to you without it!! No books or notes or internet access will be allowed on exams.

Calculator: A scientific calculator is necessary for this course. I recommend the TI-83 or TI-84, but you do not have to have a graphing calculator. **You are NOT allowed to use a cell phone as a calculator on exams.**

Desire to Learn (D2L): This course will be offered using D2L and MyMathLab. If you need assistance using Desire2Learn, the Login Page has links to online support for students. Or, use this link for the support page: <http://eu.montana.edu/btc/tlt/support/D2L/>

Textbook:

Hard copy of: *College Algebra* eText by Trigsted, 3rd Ed shrink-wrapped with MML Access Card (which includes an electronic copy of the text) ISBN: 978-3235762-5-0

OR

MML Access Card with electronic version of *College Algebra* eText by Trigsted, 3rd Ed: ISBN: 978-0-321-9237

Also required: *M121 College Algebra Student Video Notes* packet - only available at MSU bookstore.

Keys to success: Self-motivation is extremely important in having success in an online course. If you feel that having a traditional classroom instructor would be best for you, I recommend that you look into transferring into a section of College Algebra that is offered in a classroom. If you are not sure whether an online course is right for you, the MSU Extended University Website has an online quiz you can take to help determine your readiness for an online course:

<http://eu.montana.edu/Distance/quiz/>

Also, take a look at an article on useful tips to successful online learning (in summary, how time management, active participation, and constant practice are pertinent to success):

<http://connect.educause.edu/Library/EDUCAUSE+Quarterly/HowStudentsDevelopOnlineL/40009>

I am looking forward to working with you! If you have any questions at any time about the course, email me at h.staeblerwiseman@montana.edu

Have a Great Semester!!

Heidi