MATH 51 – SUMMER 2011
ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA

Instructor:	Alina Birca
Email/Phone:	abirca@mtsac.edu ; 909-594-5611 ext 5364
Website:	www.timetodare.com
Office:	Building 61 – Room 1658

Text:	*Beginning Algebra (*10th edition) by Lial, Hornsby, and McGinnis
Section:	TWR # 10191: 11:20 am – 3:00 pm Bldg 61 Room 2419

Course Objectives
This course provides experience with algebraic manipulations, allowing students to understand the real number system and the use of variable expressions and equations in problem solving, to formulate simple linear, fractional, and quadratic algebraic models and find their solutions. Experience with exponents, polynomials, and radicals is provided. Students will understand the Cartesian coordinate system and learn the connection between the solution of an equation with two variables and the graph of the equation. Students are expected to improve their ability to read and write in the language of mathematics. The above topics are necessary for success in the next course (Intermediate Algebra), and may apply to courses in chemistry, economics and other disciplines.

Methods of Instruction
This course will combine lecture, teamwork, and class discussion. Students will be required to do homework and examinations. They may also be asked to participate in in-class demonstrations and pass quizzes.

Attendance and Participation
Understanding math requires more than just reading a textbook. Listening and participating in the class activities are as important as solving problems. College policy requires that you attend every class meeting. Moreover, I do notice when you do not show up. If your grade is on a borderline, those with regular attendance are more likely to be on the higher side of the line. In addition, you miss the material from that day and that day's quiz.
NOTE: You the student are responsible for dropping the course should you decide not to continue in it. If you stop attending and doing the work and you fail to drop, you will receive a failing grade in this course. If you miss class , are late more than 15 minutes, or leave early during the add period, you will be dropped and someone on the waiting list will be added. If you are absent two times or more, you may be dropped from the class. Being late or leaving early counts as half a day.

Prerequisites
There is a prerequisite for this course (Math 50 – Pre-Algebra), and I expect that you demonstrate college arithmetic and pre-algebra skills. Students are expected to be proficient with the arithmetic of integers, fractions, decimals and percentages upon entering Math 51.

Study time & Extra help
You are expected to study two hours outside class for every hour in class. If you have trouble completing assignments or understanding the mathematics, get help as soon as you need it. Free tutorial services are available in the MARC (Bldg 61, first floor).

Late Work
Be prepared with all assignments on the day they are due. As a rule, I do not accept late written work nor are there any make up tests.

Academic Honesty
Plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. There will be a zero on the assignment and risk failing the course.

NO CALCULATOR is allowed in this class (with a few exceptions which will be announced)

If you have a phone or pager, please turn it to vibrate and sit close to the door in case you need to use it in an emergency. Thank you.

Organization, Grading and Requirements

You will need a 3-hole binder with 3 separators, labeled as follows:
LECTURES **HOMEWORK** **TESTS & QUIZZES**

- **LECTURES** – Pay attention in class to what I say and do, and make careful notes. In particular, note the problems I work on the board, and copy the complete solutions as well as the theory presented in each section. Work as neatly as you can. Write your symbols clearly, and make sure the exercises are clearly separated from each other. Do not hesitate to ask questions in class. It is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. There are always other students with the same question who are too shy to ask.
- **HOMEWORK** – Before you start on homework assignments, rework the problems I worked in class as well as all examples from the textbook . This will reinforce what you have learned. Make sure you check your previous work against the solution sections posted on my website. Print out the solutions from my website for your reference.
- Keep all homework, quizzes and tests that are returned to you in your binder. Use them when you study for future tests and for the final exam.

Assignments in the course are divided into four areas and are worth a total of 1000 points. Those earning 900 points or more will be awarded an A, 800 to 899 points a B, 700 to 799 points a C, 600 to 699 points a D and less than 599 points an F.

Homework & Mini Quizzes 100 points

Homework and reading will be assigned each day (see Tentative Class Schedule). Staple each section separately, as I might collect and grade only some of the assigned sections. Homework is due at the beginning of the class. Read carefully all the directions from the homework handout. Late homework will not be accepted for any reason. You are encouraged to discuss assignments with your classmates; however, you are required to write up your work independently. Copied homework will not be tolerated and identical, or nearly identical, assignments will *share* a single homework score.
I will also give you a 5 or 10-minute mini quiz. The mini quiz might be given every day. The mini quiz is given from the examples done in class and from the textbook examples. I will make every effort to address homework questions in class as time permits. Please feel free to contact me by email if you need additional help.

Quizzes 200 points

Two quizzes will be given (see Tentative Class Schedule). They may be given at the beginning of class or at the end of the class! These quizzes will be given from exercises and examples done in class as well as homework problems assigned from the topics covered up to that point. For an exercise to be complete there needs to be a detailed solution to the problem. Do not just write down an answer. **No proof, no credit given!** Each quiz is worth 100 points.

Tests 400 points

Two tests will be given over the major areas addressed in the course. Each test is worth 200 points. For an exercise to be complete there needs to be a detailed solution to the problem. Do not just write down an answer. **No proof, no credit given!**

Comprehensive final 300 points

The final is a 2 ½ hour exam hour exam and it is held on **Thursday, August 11** . The final is a cumulative exam. If you qualify (homework & mini quizzes score must be at least 70%), you may use the final exam percent score to replace your lowest test score. However, a test with a score of zero cannot be replaced by the final score You must take the final to pass this class.

Tentative Class Schedule

DATE		TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Tuesday	July 5	Chapter 1 – Review 2.1, 2.2	
Wednesday	July 6	2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6	
Thursday	July 7	2.7, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2	
Tuesday	July 12	3.3, 3.4, 3.5	**Homework 1** **Quiz #1**
Wednesday	July 13	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4	
Thursday	July 14	3.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3	
Tuesday	July 19	Review 5.4, 5.5, 5,6	
Wednesday	July 20	**Test #1** 5.7	
Thursday	July 21	6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4	**Homework 2**
Tuesday	July 26	6.5, 6.6, 7.1, 7.2	
Wednesday	July 27	7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6	**Quiz #2**
Thursday	July 28	7.7, 7.8, 8.1, 8.2	**Homework 3**
Tuesday	August 2	8.3, 8.4	
Wednesday	August 3	8.5, 8.6, 8.7	
Thursday	August 4	Review 8.7, 9.1	
Tuesday	August 9	**Test #2** 9.2	
Wednesday	August 10	9.3 Review	**Homework 4**
Thursday	August 11	**Final exam**	

Grade Sheet

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HOMEWORK & Mini-Quizzes	=	**/ 100**
Quiz 1		/100
Quiz 2	+	/100
QUIZZES	=	**/200**
Test 1		/200
Test 2		/200
TESTS	=	**/400**
FINAL EXAM	=	**/300**
TOTAL	=	**/1000**