
Math 046 [5 Units]: Beginning Algebra and Geometry [partly online]
San Diego Mesa College Spring 2012

Office Hour will be posted on mathhands.com

Room see mathhands.com for rooms

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Web Page *mathhands.com*

Telephone use forum or email instead

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Course Text NONE, however, a computer, Internet, & usual printing supplies are needed.

A little different

If you are looking for the typical class with the typical procedures you are strongly urged to take a different class. I believe there is much that we can improve on, thus business-as-usual is not good enough. I will make up words, I will challenge traditional methods, I will re-organize the topics. There is no permanent place in this world for ugly mathematics or poor pedagogical methods. Everything must be questioned. Inadequate methods must be discarded, and I will be more than happy to hasten the process. As a consequence, my courses may seem a little unconventional. I *may* appear unorthodox, incomprehensible to your tutor or your roommate who thinks he/she knows math. *Tradition* for the sake of tradition or for the sake of conforming with others will be treated with great irreverence. In the words of Mark Twain:

"Irreverence is the champion of liberty [& progress] and its only sure defense."

If you are not prepared to work hard and maintain an open mind then you should definitely enroll in a different course.

Questions & Homework

As you work on the lectures, notes, and homework, you may realize you have questions on the material. The preferred way to ask these questions is the discussion forum on mathhands.com as you will benefit from many classmates willing and happy to help. Moreover, you can browse through extensive archives of questions previously discussed. For private questions, you can email me or ask during class or office hours.

Course Model

The model for the course is roughly as follows. Each lesson contains 3 major components, a lecture, written homework, and a self quiz. Each component demands more of the student by design. It is advisable to skip the written homework, just watch the lecture and start the quiz, **ONLY** if you want to be confused and learn as little as possible. For best results, you should participate in all three components, in that order, **ONE** watch lectures [online or on campus], **TWO** do the written homework, **THREE** take the quizzes. At any point if you have questions, post them on the the mathhands forum. Additional homework may be assigned from other sites as necessary.

Required

Notes, homework, lectures [online classes], quizzes, pre-tests, discussions, and grades will be delivered via internet. So you must have access to a computer on campus or elsewhere where you can print the materials. A scientific calculator may be useful as well, at times a fax or a scanner may also be needed.

Grades:

Students will take 3 midterms on campus, including a comprehensive final. The grade will be based 40% on quizzes and 40% on exams and 20% Homework. Towards the end of the semester, at the discretion of the instructor, depending on overall class performance, the instructor may drop the lowest quiz score for each students, or lowest test score, or both.

This format is intended to provide for optimal learning and understanding specially while completing the take home quizzes, while still making it easy to earn a good grade. The idea is that any human experience is tainted when graded. I believe grades are an unpleasant reality. The course format is my attempt de-emphasize grades as much as possible, and emphasize learning and enjoying mathematical ideas, you should not be afraid to wonder to think, or to challenge yourself for fear of getting a bad grade. In this class, you need not be afraid to think and be challenged, your can still make a great grade while being challenged to the full extent of you capacity. Said differently, because the grading is so easy and de-emphasized, that allows us to consider very challenging or difficult homework and exam questions without being afraid of the challenge.

Your grade will be defined by the following:

Homework	weekly	20% of your grade
Quizzes [@home]	14 per semester	40% of your grade
In Class Exams	3 including a final	40% of your grade

For an A you need over 90%, for a B you need over 80%, for a C over 68%, and for a D over 58% Please note that the proposed dates for exams are only tentative and subject to change as needed. Any changes to the tentative schedule will be announced in class. For ONLINE students, tests will be in the evenings at San Diego Mesa College campus. Once rooms are reserved times and room number will be posted on mathhands, usually a few weeks prior to first exam.

The Drop

Life often presents us with emergencies, such as a pregnant spouse about to deliver, a car accident, a health issue, a relative who passes away in a foreign country to which you must travel, etc.. etc. there are many, many, understandable reasons why you may have to miss an exam. If you miss an exam, DUE TO A LIFE EMERGENCY, that exam may be dropped. IF by the time the final has come along and you have been fortunate enough to have had no life emergencies of such type.. then you may skip and drop the final, or take it and drop your lowest exam score. You may also drop your lowest quiz score. The dropping of an exam is not intended as A WAY OF RAISING YOUR GRADE, its purpose is to protect your grade IN CASE OF A LIFE EMERGENCY. There will be no make ups.

From The President

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'PRESS ON' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race [i.e. homework]" President Calvin Coolidge

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: MATH 035 with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent, or assessment Skill Level M30.

Advisory: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 043 and ENGL 056, each with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent, or assessment Skill Levels W4/R5.

Description Elementary algebra and geometry serves as the foundation for the other math courses and is the first of a two-course integrated sequence in algebra and geometry intended to prepare students for transfer level mathematics. This course covers the real number system; writing, simplifying, solving and graphing of linear equations in one variable; solving linear inequalities in one variable; solving systems of linear equations in two variables; algebraic operations with polynomial expressions and factoring; functions; operations involving rational expressions and related equations; and geometric properties of lines, angles, and triangles. (FT). Associate Degree Credit only and not Transferable.

5.00 Lecture Hours, 5.00 Units Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit Option

Attendance

No records will be kept as to times logged in online. You are free to work at your pace so long as the weekly quizzes are being done. You will only need to come to campus on dates of the midterms.

Behavior& Cheating

You may be dropped from the class or receive an F for the course if you cheat. Plus, you do not learn much. Instead, learn about the Free Tutoring Center on Campus, Star Program, Bridge Program, My Office Hours, and the million other legitimate, respectful, honorable sources made available to you, so that you may get an excellent grade in the course and be proud of it. For complete list of disruptive behavior see Policy 3100.

Holidays Quizzes are usually due on Sundays. However, on holiday weekends, you may turn them in by Monday night.

DSPS Students who need special arrangements should feel free to provide details during my office hours.

Tentative Schedule [\[always check mathhands.com for official/latest updates etc.\]](https://mathhands.com)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Jan 23rd First Day	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th 1 QUIZ DUE
30th	31st	Feb 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th 2 QUIZ DUE
6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th 3 QUIZ DUE
13th	14th	15th	16th	17th Lincoln Day	18th	19th 4 QUIZ DUE
20th Washington Day	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th 5 QUIZ DUE
27th	28th	29th EXAM 1 [on campus]	Mar 1st	2nd	3rd	4th 6 QUIZ DUE
5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th 7 QUIZ DUE
12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th 8 QUIZ DUE
19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th 9 QUIZ DUE
26th	27th	28th	29th	30th Drop Deadline	31st	Apr 1st 10 QUIZ DUE
2nd spring break	3rd spring break	4th spring break	5th spring break	6th spring break	7th	8th
9th	10th	11th EXAM 2 [on campus]	12th	13th	14th	15th
16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd 11 QUIZ DUE
23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th 12 QUIZ DUE
30th	May 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th 13 QUIZ DUE
7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th 14 QUIZ DUE
14th	15th	16th EXAM 3 [on campus]	17th	18th	19th Semester Ends	20th 15