

---

Math 046 [5 Units]: Beginning Algebra and Geometry  
San Diego Mesa College Fall 2011

---

**Office Hour** will be posted on [www.mathhands.com](http://www.mathhands.com)

**Room** see [www.mathhands.com](http://www.mathhands.com) for rooms

**Instructor** Francisco Javier Marquez, PhD.

**Web Page** [www.mathhands.com](http://www.mathhands.com)

**Telephone** use forum or email instead

**email** [drquijote@gmail.com](mailto:drquijote@gmail.com)

**Office** H207D [campus], [www.mathhands.com](http://www.mathhands.com) [online]

**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. They must all 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 [www.mathhands.com](http://www.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.

### 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 50% on quizzes and 50% on exams. 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.

Your grade will be defined by the following:

Take Home Quizzes	14 per semester	50% of your grade
In Class Exams	3 including a final	50% 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**

[Online] 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.

[Campus] You are expected to be on time and miss no more than 10% of scheduled meeting times. You may be dropped at the discretion of the instructor if your absences exceed 10%. If you must miss a day, check online schedule for due assignments. There is need to contact the instructor for such occasions.

### **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 [www.mathhands.com](http://www.mathhands.com) for official/latest updates etc.]

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Aug 22nd First Day	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th <b>1</b> QUIZ DUE
29th	30th	31st	Sep 1st	2nd	3rd	4th <b>2</b> QUIZ DUE
5th Labor Day	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th <b>3</b> QUIZ DUE
12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th <b>4</b> QUIZ DUE
19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th <b>5</b> QUIZ DUE
26th	27th EXAM 1	28th online students EXAM 1 held on campus	29th	30th	Oct 1st	2nd <b>6</b> QUIZ DUE
3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th <b>7</b> QUIZ DUE
10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th <b>8</b> QUIZ DUE
17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd <b>9</b> QUIZ DUE
24th	25th	26th	27th	28th Drop Deadline	29th	30th <b>10</b> QUIZ DUE
31st	Nov 1st	2nd online students EXAM 2 held on campus	3rd EXAM 2	4th	5th	6th
7th	8th	9th	10th	11th Veterans Day	12th	13th <b>11</b> QUIZ DUE
14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th <b>12</b> QUIZ DUE
21st Thanksgiving	22nd Thanksgiving	23rd Thanksgiving	24th Thanksgiving	25th Thanksgiving	26th Thanksgiving	27th Thanksgiving
28th	29th	30th	Dec 1st	2nd	3rd	4th <b>13</b> QUIZ DUE
5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th <b>14</b> QUIZ DUE
12th	13th	14th online students EXAM 3 held on campus	15th EXAM 3	16th Semester Ends	17th	18th