

ALGEBRA I COURSE SYLLABUS
SMITH PREP SPRING TERM 2011
INSTRUCTOR: Matt West

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WEB PAGE: Any resources that are needed will be in the Training Series section of my webpage (<http://www.ProfWest.com>).

CLASS HOURS: 11:00-12:30 THU

A. DESCRIPTION

This course is a primer on Algebra. We will cover the entire book, but we will select some topics as more important than others. The teacher has determined the subjects that are most necessary to cover, and those are the topics we will cover. If there is an area that you feel we need to cover, please see me during the first month and I will try to make sure it is included.

B. GRADING PLAN

1. Take Home Tests (4)	40%
2. In Class Exams (2)	30%
3. Cumulative Final Exam	30%

HOMEWORK:

Homework will be given for every class and the answers are in the back of the book. You will not be graded for your homework, but it can be used to bump your grade if "good effort" is given. Homework should contain all of problems assigned, including diagrams, showing work, copying down the original problem, and following directions. These are all signs of "Good effort". If it is suspected that you are not trying, the right to grade the homework for its correctness is reserved.

TAKE HOME TESTS:

They are not distinctively cumulative. They will be assigned by the Monday following class.

IN CLASS EXAMS:

They are not distinctively cumulative.

FINAL EXAM:

This will be a cumulative exam taken during the final class.

C. YOUR IDEAS, EVALUATIONS, ETC.

In general, your ideas, comments, suggestions, questions, etc. are welcome. Your discretion in these matters is expected, however. No part of your grade will be based on anything other than your coursework. I will attempt to teach the material and be very clear about what is on each test or quiz. If there is anything you do not understand or do not feel was made clear, I would love to work with you.

D. SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

For most students this will not be a "difficult" course. If you do the work assigned each night and understand it, you will be set for success. If you decide to not do your work or merely go through the motions and do not understand it, you could find yourself with a very difficult class. If you do not understand the homework one evening, call or email me, so I can help you with it.

FALL 2010 WEEK BY WEEK SCHEDULE

January 13, 2011

Factoring & Basic Algebra Review

January 20, 2011

Simplifying, Multiplying, and Dividing
Rational Expressions

January 27, 2011

THT

Rationals with Denominators, Mixed
Expressions, Complex Fractions

February 3, 2011

Ordered Pairs, Relations, Graphing
Linear Relations

February 10, 2011

Graphing Inequalities, Finding
Equations, and Using Graphs

February 17, 2011

EXAM over Chapter 10
with Guest Instructor

February 24, 2011

Slope of a Line, Point-Slope, and Slope-
Intercept

March 3, 2011

THT

Parallel & Perpendicular Lines,
Midpoints, and Using Graphs

March 17, 2011

Using Table, Square Roots, and
Pythagorean Theorem

March 24, 2011

EXAM over Chapter 12

March 31, 2011

Graphing Quadratics and Identifying
subgoals

April 7, 2011

THT

Solving quadratics by completing the
square, discriminant, and the formula

April 21, 2011

Stem and Leaf Plots, Measures of
Central Tendency and Variation

April 28, 2011

THT

Factoring Trinomials and Squares

May 5, 2011

Trigonometry

May 12, 2011

Final Cumulative EXAM