Prealgebra Mat 075 Syllabus for Fall 2007

Adjunct Professor Sue Butler

e-mail: butlersueq@yahoo.com

Text: Prealgebra, *5th* edition, by Elaine Martin-Gay
Instructor recommendations: Buying a new textbook is a great deal. You get your book, the solutions manual, and the MyMathLab codes you need to register online.

MyMathLab.com: This course has been set up as a **MyMathLab-based course**. MyMathLab is a website that is available to you 24/7, whereas our total class time each week is less than 3 hours. MyMathLab is an incredibly powerful tool to help you master the concepts in this course. MyMathLab is not required to successfully complete this course, however it is *strongly recommended* that you take advantage of the opportunities available to you only through MyMathLab. (See the grading policy below.)

The codes you need to register online with MyMathLab are provided in new textbooks, or for a separate fee of $50 (subject to change). MyMathLab contains an online version of your textbook, links to video clips, practice exercises, animations, and unlimited tutorial exercises. It will be your responsibility to use MyMathLab to familiarize yourself with the material covered each week, and to keep up with the course schedule in case of absences, class cancellations due to inclement weather, instructor absence, or your own absence(s). Class time will not be entirely lecture-based. Instead we will use that time to problem-solve together or in small groups.

Our Course Code is: butler97447

Grading Policy:

Determination of your grade will be based on *one* of the following:

A) Classroom only:

1. There will be a total of **4 in-class exams**, each exam representing 25% of your course grade:

3 one-hour, in-class exams @ 100 points each = 300 points
Final exam = 100 points
(Optional Make Up Exam = 100 points)

2**. Textbook assignments** will not be collected or graded. Students wishing to earn a homework credit (up to 20%) towards each exam may hand in their notebooks for a "homework check" on exam days. Textbook assignments will roughly match the online MyMathLab homework assignments. Homework is a tool for measuring your own mastery of each concept. (See "tips for success" below) Each class will begin with discussion of your homework questions from the online assignments and/or corresponding questions from the textbook.

OR,

B) MyMathLab component:

1. Exams: You have the option of replacing any of the in-class exam grades with a similar exam posted online. Online exams can be repeated, as many times as needed, until you are satisfied with the results. (Each attempt will have slightly different problems.) Here's the catch: each time an online exam is substituted for an in-class exam, the "weight" of the final exam increases – as follows:

1 online exam, then the final exam = 30% of the course grade,
2 online exams, then the final exam = 40% of the course grade,
all 3 online exams, the final exam = 50% of the course grade

2. Online Homework: Successful completion of the online assignments for each chapter will be factored in to each exam grade (up to 20%), either online or in-class.

Other Miscellaneous FYI's

Final Exam: The final exam is not optional. It is an in-class exam *only*. You must complete the final exam with a minimum grade of 50% to get a C or better in the course. If you are absent for the final exam, I will post your grade as "incomplete", and it will be your responsibility to schedule your exam with me.

Make-Up Exam: A missed test grade or low test grade may also be replaced by a (comprehensive) make-up exam to be scheduled during final exam week. Note: this will be the *only* opportunity to make up a missed exam (excluding MyMathLab).

Attendance: Any student who maintains *fewer than 5* absences will earn 1 point for each day of attendance for a total of 30 points to apply toward your total points for the semester. In other words, this bonus is not awarded to anyone with 5 or more absences.

Absence: If you are absent on the day of an exam, a copy of your exam will be put on file at the tutoring center. You will have until the next regularly scheduled class session to take your exam. The tutoring center will proctor your exam, collect your exam from you, and forward it to my mailbox.

Grade Equivalents:

A	93 - 100	C+	77 -79	
A-	90 - 92		C	73 - 76
			C-	70 - 72
B+	87 - 89			
B	83 - 86		D+	67 - 69
B-	80 - 82		D	63 - 66
			D-	60 –62
			F	59 or lower

Please note that a grade of C or better is required to go on to the next course.

Withdrawal Policy: A "drop or withdrawal" from the course will be accepted through the 10th week of classes in accordance with the designated withdrawal deadlines. Students need to fill out the special withdrawal form available at the registrar's office: Withdrawals are processed only through the Registrar's Office at (860) 892-5756 or the Subase at (860) 445-5575. Students who do not withdraw, but stop attending will be assigned an "F".

Disabilities Statement: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the disabilities Counseling Services at 383-3240. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the disabilities counselor.

Calculator: A calculator is not allowed for this course. The TI-83 or TI-84 is recommended for Math 095 and Math 137. The TI-89 is recommended for the math courses beyond intermediate algebra.

"General Tips for Success" Attend all class periods. Make sure your work hours do not conflict with your course schedule. Most students do not pass algebra after more than 4 absences. Do your homework, "practice makes perfect", especially algebra! Check your work. If you have made a mistake try to figure out what went wrong. Then correct your mistake. Rework the problem from the beginning. Learn from your mistakes. Don't skip steps.

Tips for Success from your Instructor:
Regular attendance is vital to your success in this course (I can't stress that enough!).

Ask questions! My experience tells me that if you have a question, then at least 5 other classmates have the same question. There is no such thing as a stupid question.

Take notes. Jot down notes as you go through the MyMathLab instruction segments, take notes from the blackboard, do your homework assignments in a notebook, use your notebook to work out the online assignments and tutorials. DO NOT try to do it all 'in your head'. Skipping steps will ultimately waste your time from making simple errors.

Use MyMathLab *before class* to see what objectives will be covered in class each week, and try the online homework assignments. Bring your questions to our next class session. MyMathLab's video clips, animation, and tutorial sections will walk you through the mastery of each objective and will help us make better use of our class time for problem solving and addressing your questions. I will need to hear from you what you like about MyMathLab and what needs fixing!

Best wishes for a successful semester!