MATH 113  
PRE-CALCULUS  
FALL 2015  

Syllabus and Policies

Instructor: Eric Kahn  
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Email: ekahn@bloomu.edu  
Office Phone: 389-4688  
Website: http://facstaff.bloomu.edu/ekahn

Text: Precalculus, 5th edition, by: Lial, Hornsby, & Schneider  
Lecture: 207 Navy Hall, MWF 12:00-12:50 (Section 2)  
Lecture: 207 Navy Hall, MWF 10:00-10:50 (Section 4)  
Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00, TR 14:00-15:00 or MTWRF by appointment

Course Content: Pre-calculus can be a slightly misleading name to a course. It gives the sense that the subject’s worth is solely derived from its foundation for future courses. While this course and the material to be covered clearly do prepare students for success in the subsequent 12 credits of Calculus, the mathematics, in particular the trigonometry, to be covered here is creative, deep, and interesting in its own right. The difference between this course and a standard Trigonometry course is that here we will also be interested in how trigonometric ideas apply to the standard study of change (ie. calculus). Even with that in mind, the number one comment from students looking back after completing our Calculus sequence is that ‘If they had only known how much trigonometry was involved in studying calculus, they would have worked harder in Pre-calculus.’

The only way to learn mathematics is to become actively involved in mathematics. Thus I expect you to read the book, participate in class, ask questions, and complete all of the assigned problems. Throughout the semester we will be covering parts of the chapters from the text in the following order: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 3, & 4.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend and participate in every class.

Calculator: All calculators are prohibited in this class. You will likely need a TI-89 or TI-92 graphing calculator for the calculus sequence if you choose to take it in the future.

Homework: I will regularly assign homework to help you prepare for the course exams. The problems have been carefully chosen by the instructor to help students prepare for exams. These recommended problems will never be collected but they are extremely important in helping you learn the material; it is highly recommended that you designate a special notebook used exclusively for recommended homework problems. Having an easy to access collection of problems will help you immensely on quizzes (see below) and when studying for exams. You may also bring this notebook with you to office hours to go over progress and techniques during meetings. A list of problems can be found on the class website and will be periodically updated.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be taken during class most Wednesdays and Fridays and may cover any material from the semester up to that point. You will be allowed to use any parts of the suggested homework assignment completed by that date on each quiz. However if you are caught with notes out during a quiz that is considered cheating, see the section on Academic Honesty for the consequences. There are no make up quizzes without a University excuse but the three lowest scores will be dropped.

Exams: All exams will be closed book and closed notebook. Makeup exams will only be administered in the presence of a documented university excused absence. If you know you are going to miss an exam for a university excused absence, you must let me know a week in advance to schedule a makeup exam. The final exam will be comprehensive and must be taken at the designated time by the university.
Electronics: Be courteous to your peers and do not use electronics in the classroom during lecture or presentations. Electronic devices will be collected from students if the instructor feels they are distracting the class or the instructor.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic honesty infractions. By submitting work for credit, each student is claiming that they completed the assignment completely within the scope of the instructions. Any instance of the plagiarism or cheating will result in the offending student(s): 1. receiving a zero on that assignment, 2. having her/his/their course grade(s) lowered by one full letter grade, & 3. being reported to the Director of Student Standards and the Academic Grievance Board. The Academic Integrity Policy for Bloomsburg University is defined in [PRP 3512](#).

Advice: If you have questions about the material, the text, a lecture, grading, etc., I am available during office hours, email, or scheduled appointments. Please address questions and concerns to me as early as possible.

Grading: Here are the dates of the exams and the percent of your final grade each type of assignment is worth.

- Quizzes: Most Wednesdays and Fridays - 20%
- Exam 1: 18 September - 15%
- Exam 2: 23 October - 20%
- Exam 3: 20 November - 20%
- Final Exam section 2: Thursday 10 December 10:30 - 25%
- Final Exam section 4: Friday 11 December 10:30 - 25%

Letter grades will be determined by the following rubric.

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<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percent Score</th>
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<td>93-100%</td>
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