

# MA 091, Elementary Algebra – Syllabus

## I) Course Information

MA 091

CRN : 40096

Elementary Algebra

Room : SE211

Time : 10:45 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

Days : Mondays through Thursday

Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in MA 090 or appropriate score on the placement test.

## II) Instructor Information

Name : Dr. Ben Nicholson

Phone : 240-567-5222

Office: 25 Science West

Email: [ben.nicholson@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:ben.nicholson@montgomerycollege.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays through Thursday 1-2 P.M. or by appointment.

Website : <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/~bnichols/>

## III) Course Description

A presentation of the basic concepts of algebra: linear equations in one and two variables including systems and graphing, linear inequalities, literal equations, integer exponents, polynomials, factoring quadratic equations, and simple rational expressions. Applications are included throughout the course.

## IV) Course Outcomes

1. Students will be able to solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable with rational coefficients.
2. Students will be able to solve literal equations for a specified variable.
3. Students will be able to graph linear equations in two variables on a Cartesian coordinate system.
4. Students will be able to find the slope of a line both graphically and algebraically.
5. Students will be able to find the equation of the line that contains two given points.
6. Students will be able to solve systems of linear equations in two variables.
7. Students will be able to use the laws of exponents for integer exponents.
8. Students will be able to perform basic arithmetic operations with polynomials.
9. Students will be able to factor polynomials.
10. Students will be able to solve quadratic equations in one variable using factoring and the quadratic formula.

## V) Texts and Supplies

Textbook : *Introductory Algebra* Elayn Martin-Gay. Third edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall.

The book will be used extensively for assignments and readings and is required of all students.

You may also purchase the student solutions manual in the bookstore. There is a copy of the solution manual in the Math Center for student use. The course management system for this course also comes with an electronic copy of the book.

## VI) Required Supplies

We will also be using MyMathLab, an online homework system. MyMathLab comes packaged with new textbooks. If you have a used textbook you may purchase the access separately from the MyMathLab website. If you already used MyMathLab in the fall then you may just enroll in our course with your same login. The code for our course is **nicholson74739**

## VII) Calculator Policy

A scientific calculator is going to be required for several topics during the semester, but a graphing calculator is not. I highly recommend using a TI-83 or 84 as it will be required in your next course, but for this course it is optional.

## VIII) Course Requirements

Grades will be composed of 3 parts : online homework, mastery quizzes, and exams.

### Homework

1. Homework will be assigned on a near daily basis through MyMathLab. Extensions will be granted on a case by case basis. The homework will total 100 points towards the final grade.

### Mastery quizzes

1. There will be 8 mastery quizzes this semester. Mastery quizzes are worth 10 points and will be all or nothing. The typical quiz will consist of 6 problems of which you must get 5 correct to receive credit.
2. You will have multiple attempts to pass the gateway quizzes and will have 2 weeks from the first administration of the quiz to complete the quiz.

### Exams

1. There will be 3 exams plus a final exam.
2. Each exam will be worth 100 points, and the final will be worth 200 points.
3. If your MyMathLab homework grade is at least 80%, the grade on the final exam will replace your lowest exam grade if it is higher.

## IX) Grading Policy and Criteria\

Assignment	Points	%
Exams	500	73%
Homework	100	15%
Gateways	80	12%

Final grades will be a percentage of points earned versus points possible.

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
Below 70%	U

## X) Make-Up Policy

If you must miss an exam you must let me know **BEFORE** class by either sending me an email or calling or leaving a message on my voice mail and make arrangements to take the exam by the next class period.

## XI) Attendance Policy

You are expected to be in class on time every time. It is imperative that we be ready to begin on time every day.

## XII) Important Dates

Last Date to Drop with a Refund : May 31

Last Date to Drop without a W : June 6

Last Date to Drop with a W: June 27

No class: July 4<sup>th</sup>

Final Exam: Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> 10:45 A.M.

**XIII) Email**

MC student e-mail is an official means of communication for Montgomery College. Students are responsible for information and announcements sent via MC e-mail, and it is expected that students check their student e-mail regularly. When e-mailing an instructor, it is expected that students use their MC student e-mail account.

**XIV) Website**

The instructor maintains a website where all course related materials and assignments are posted. You may access this website through the instructor's website, through the MyCourses tab on MyMC, or directly at <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/~bnichols/ma091.html>

**XV) Math/Science Center**

**Rockville Campus**, Math/Science Center, Macklin Tower 02, 240-567-5200,  
Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 8am – 8pm, Fri. 8am – 4pm, Sat. 10am – 3pm  
<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/mathscr/>

**XVI) Academic Regulations & Student Code of Conduct**

All MC students are expected to follow “Academic Regulations” & “Student Code of Conduct” as described in the MC Student Handbook. These regulations and guidelines can be found at: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/departments/academicvp/Student\\_PandP.htm](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/departments/academicvp/Student_PandP.htm)

Cheating and plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. At a minimum, it will earn you a zero on the assignment or exam and could lead to disciplinary action from the college. It is encouraged and expected that students will work together to complete assignments. There is a difference however between working together and copying someone else's paper.

**XVII) Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Statement:**

Disability Support Services (240-567-5058)

Any student who may need an accommodation due to a disability, please make an appointment to see me during my office hour. A letter from Disability Support Services (CB122) authorizing your accommodations will be needed. Any student who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation must identify to the Disability Support Services Office; guidelines for emergency evacuations for individuals with disabilities are found at:

[www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/evacprocedures.htm](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/evacprocedures.htm)

**XVIII) Inclement Weather**

If inclement weather forces the College or any campus or College facility to suspend classes or close, public service announcements will be provided to local radio and television stations as early as possible. You may also call MC at 240-567-5000 or check the college website [www.montgomerycollege.edu](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu) to verify MC school closings. Any exams planned on days classes are suspended will be administered at the first class meeting once classes resume. Note that the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Montgomery College do not follow the same school closing procedures.