

### **PROFESSOR SHAW'S THOUGHTS ABOUT LEARNING**

You and I have the same goal – that you succeed in your Elementary Algebra course. Educational research shows that this is most likely to happen if you are actively engaged as a student. Therefore, I have designed the classroom activities and assignments to encourage your involvement in learning.

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Office Location: Science East, 222F                      Telephone: 240-567-5225

Email: Nancy.Shaw@MontgomeryCollege.edu

- Please use your college address and write using grammatically correct sentences.
- During the work week and many weekends, I will reply to email within a day.

Math Department Office: 240-567-5194      Math Department Fax\*: 240-567-5182

*\*There is a significant time delay before a fax is printed, & finally delivered to my mailbox in SE215.*

Professor Shaw's Web Site: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/faculty/~nshaw/public\\_html](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/faculty/~nshaw/public_html)

Official Office Hours: Mon 11<sup>00</sup> – 11<sup>30</sup>, Tue 9<sup>00</sup>-9<sup>45</sup>, Wed 2<sup>00</sup>-2<sup>45</sup>, Thursdays 12<sup>30</sup>-1<sup>30</sup>

When I am not in class, I am usually in my office, and often available to talk. There is a link to my weekly schedule on MyMC → My Courses tab → MA 091, as well as my web site. If it is important that we meet at a specific time, let me know this so we can reserve one that is mutually convenient.

### **SEMESTER CALENDAR**

You will find a tentative semester calendar attached to this syllabus. It lists which days various topics (listed in green by chapter.section) are likely to be studied in class, expected test dates, and much more. I suggest you consult it on a regular basis.

### **GENERAL PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE**

The goals of Elementary Algebra are two-fold. One is that you learn how people communicate in math – that you, too, learn to reason and talk mathematically. A second goal is more practical - that you acquire math skills needed for future college courses. Our class is one of three sections which will be piloting a special textbook designed to make algebra more meaningful.

### **COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

*MA 091*

*ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA*

*No Credit*

*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. PREREQUISITE: A grade of A, B, C or S in MA 090, appropriate score on the mathematics assessment test, or consent of department. Assessment level: RD 099/103. For computation of tuition, this course is equivalent to three semester hours. Three hours each week.*

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Textbook:

Textbook: *Elementary Algebra, Graphs and Authentic Applications, with MathXL, by Jay Lehmann; Pearson/Prentice Hall.* This comes packaged with an access code for MathXL, the online homework system that we will be using. (See the next section.)

*Please be aware that you will need the MathXL access code as well as the textbook. If you buy your book from an independent source, it is not likely to include a MathXL access code). Check first!*

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS (CONTINUED)**

### MathXL:

This is an online homework system which we will use for most homework. Some assignments for the first unit have already been posted online and more will be added before classes begin. In fact, you can register for MathXL now at [www.mathxl.com](http://www.mathxl.com), then enroll in the course using course ID [XLOC-J15D-401Y-5A92](#) [XLOD-C1QD-401Y-38Z2](#). I encourage you to begin familiarizing yourself with the system soon. With MathXL you can re-work most parts of each assignment, up until the posted due date. As you work the homework exercises, MathXL offers tutorial help and/or related textbook references. Print any questions that you wish to discuss; bring them to class or a study group. MathXL can be purchased separately at [www.mathxl.com](http://www.mathxl.com).

### Calculator:

Each student in this class is required to have a graphing calculator and to bring it regularly to class. Texas Instruments TI-83 & TI-84 will be supported in class. Neither the TI-89 nor the TI-92 may be used at this level. You may not know how to graph as you begin the course, those features will be introduced and discussed gradually as the course progresses. To help you further, I have posted a link on MyMC to some Flash movies that demonstrate these features. Math/Science Center is offering two free graphing calculator workshops (1<sup>00</sup>-2<sup>00</sup> Thu, 9/10 and 3<sup>00</sup>-4<sup>00</sup> Mon, 9/14).

## **RESOURCES**

There are many extra resources available for you. It will be your responsibility to select and use which work best for your personal situation. Below is a partial list:

Math/Science Center, located below the library, at Macklin Tower 02

The Center has tables for folks who wish to work in small groups, individual study carrels for those who want a quiet space to work alone, and computers for students to access MathXL on the Internet. The MSC retains textbooks and solution manuals for students to use while visiting, and free tutoring.

Contact: Telephone: 240-567-5200 Internet: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/mathscrv](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/mathscrv)

Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 8am – 8pm, Fri. 8am – 4pm, Sat. 10am – 3pm.

### Tutoring:

You can receive free Tutoring on a drop-by basis, offered by math faculty and student tutors at the Math/Science Center during most hours they are open. Check their website for details.

### MyMC (online):

I will use MyMC to post course related documents, such as this syllabus, the semester calendar, some handouts, and printable graph paper. See MyMC? MyCourses? MA 091? Files. Keep checking throughout the semester for updates.

### Student Study Groups:

Study groups can make a big difference! Relationships formed with study partners often continue well past one course. Find or form a study group with other students in our class; meet regularly and often to discuss the homework, ask questions, prepare for quizzes & tests and learn by interacting with each other.

## **POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

### Participating in Your Learning

Participation and discussion are an important part of learning. You will be working regularly with other members of the class and are expected to participate actively in all learning events. Participation includes staying “tuned in” and “turned on” during class, venturing forth with your own ideas and questions, contributing during group activities, listening attentively to others and assisting your classmates when possible.

## **POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS (CONTINUED)**

### Attending and Being Prompt for Class

Each student is expected to come to every class, to arrive on time and to be prepared to be an active learner the moment class is scheduled to begin. If it is essential, however, that you miss a class, make sure you find out what transpired. It is not the professor's responsibility to re-teach any lesson that transpired. You will be responsible for any assignments given, work covered and announcements made. Notice: if you miss more than a week's worth of classes (two days) for any reason(s), it is likely you will be dropped from the course. Please don't let that happen!

### Missing a Test/Quiz

If you know in advance that you have to miss a test or a quiz, you can make arrangements with me to take the test or quiz **before** it is given in class.

In addition, a TEST may be made up if and only if you

1. Contact me on or before the scheduled test date and time; and also,
2. Have submitted 85% of your Written Homework and MathXL when they were due.

Both conditions must be met in order to qualify to take an advance makeup test. If advance notification is not given, then your final exam grade could\* be substituted for the grade of the missed test. \*This special deal is offered for only one exam and only if you have submitted 85% of the collective homework. If you are present for all three exams and have met the homework stipulation, then the offer applies to the test with the lowest score (if that will help your overall average).

A weekly QUIZ cannot be made up. However, if have not exceeded the 2-day limit of absences, then your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped when computing the course grade.

### 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 are different; they do not follow the same school closing procedures.

### Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated and would likely result in an "F" for the course.

### Disability Support

To any student who may need an accommodation due to a disability, please make an appointment to see me during my office hours so we can discuss what is best for your situation. A letter from Disability Support Services authorizing your accommodations will be needed.

### Academic Regulations & Student Code of Conduct

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

**GRADING**

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## GRADING

You and I have the same goal – that you learn Elementary Algebra and earn a grade that represents this. To ensure consistency between the course goals and how you are evaluated, one component of your grade will be Handwritten Homework. It is different from MathXL online assignments because it is evaluated on criteria more than simply stating a final answer. It will be based on how well you present your reasoning, how well you make use of graphs and/or tables to communicate your ideas, how you state your final conclusions and relate them to the original situation presented.

Every week you will be asked to write a narrative **RESPONSE** to a question or statement prompt that I will pose to you. The prompts typically relate to mathematics or generic study skills.

Your grade in this class will be based on these four factors;

- Tests (4).....44 %
- Weekly Quizzes.....11 %
- Final Exam.....25%
- Homework (MathXL online-10% and Hand-Written-6%).....15%
- Writing Prompts.....5%

Attendance and participation will be used to help determine final grades for students with borderline averages. These closed intervals will be used for a grading:

A [90, 100]    B [80, 89]    C [70, 79]    U [0,69]

### **PARTING COMMENT:**

Last, but not least, think positively and believe that you can understand Elementary Algebra and do well in the course. **YOU ARE THE OWNER OF YOUR EDUCATION**. Please don't fall into the trap of telling yourself "I just can't do math". If you let yourself believe this, then you may lose control of the situation and feel unable to do anything to change it. On the other hand, if you tell yourself that you can learn Elementary Algebra and that you are going to take responsibility for learning it, then you do have control over the situation and can take measures to do just that.

Ultimately, you will be the one to assume responsibility for actively shaping your learning in this course.

**Shaw MA 091 Fa2009 Anticipated Schedule of Topics Tue/Thu 11<sup>00</sup>-12<sup>15</sup> HU 302**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8/30	8/31	9/1 Course Intro 1.1, 1.2	9/2	9/3 1.2, 1.3, 1.4	9/4	9/5
9/6 is the Last Day to Drop with a Refund	Labor Day MC Closed	9/8 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4	9/9	9/10 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 GrphgCalcWorkshop 1 <sup>00</sup> -2 <sup>00</sup> (Optional)	9/11	9/12
9/13	GrphgCalc Workshop 3 <sup>00</sup> -4 <sup>00</sup>	9/15 Summary and Review-Ch.1&2	9/16	9/17 <b>TEST 1-Ch.1&amp;2</b> Preparatory work with 3.1	9/18	9/19
9/20	Last Day to Drop without a "W" or « Audit	9/22 3.1, 3.2, 3.3	9/23	9/24 3.3, 3.4, 3.5	9/25	9/26
9/27	10/5	9/29 4.1, 4.2, 4.3	9/30	10/1 4.3, 4.4, 4.5	10/2	10/3
10/4	10/12	10/6 4.6 Labs	10/7	10/8 Summary and Review-Ch.3&4	10/9	10/10
10/11	10/19	10/13 <b>TEST 2-Ch.3&amp;4</b> Preparatory work with 5.1	10/14	10/15 5.1, 5.2, 5.3	10/16	10/17
10/18	10/26	10/20 5.4, 5.5	10/21	10/22 6.1, 6.2, 6.3	10/23	10/24
10/25	11/26	10/27 6.3, 6.4, 6.5	10/28	10/29 Summary and Review-Ch.5&6	10/30	10/31
11/1	11/2	11/3 <b>TEST 3-Ch.5&amp;6</b> Preparatory work with 7.1	11/4	11/5 7.1, 7.2, 7.3	11/6	11/7
11/8	11/9	11/10 7.3, 7.4, 7.5	11/11	11/12 7.6, 7.7, 7.7	11/13	11/14
11/15	11/16	11/17 8.1, 8.2, 8.3	11/18	11/19 8.5, 8.6	11/20	11/21
11/22	11/23	11/24 9.1, 9.3, 9.5	No Classes	11/26 COLLEGE THANKSGIVING	CLOSED VACATION	11/28
11/29	11/30	12/1 9.5 Lab	12/2	12/3 Summary and Review-Ch.7,8,9	12/4	12/5
12/6	12/7	12/8 <b>TEST 4-Ch.7,8,9</b> Course Summary	12/9	12/10 Course Summary	12/11	12/12

**Final Exam: Friday, December 17, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**