



Course Syllabus – Spring 2009

Course Number and Title: DEVS 0320 Introductory Algebra

Instructor Information

Name: Beth St Jean

Contact Information:

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Office Hours:

- Monday, Wednesday: 9:00 – noon
- Tuesday, Thursday: 2:30 – 5 p.m.
- Fridays: By appointment

Course Overview

Catalog Description: Module 1 in the Modular College Algebra series. Curriculum includes elementary algebra including properties and operations of real numbers, operations with algebraic expressions, factoring, solving linear equations and linear inequalities, the coordinate system, and graphing. Upon successful completion of DEVS 0320, the student will be ready to enroll in DEVS 0330 Intermediate Algebra (Module 2 in the Modular College Algebra series). Some laboratory time may be required.

Course Overview: This is a course for the development of mathematical skills necessary for success in DEVS 0330 Intermediate Algebra or higher. Individual problem solving, group work, board work, class discussion, and lectures will be used. Students are also required to attend a one hour lab each week.

Pre-requisites: None

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of basic mathematical operations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the elementary algebra concepts necessary for success in DEVS 0330 Intermediate Algebra or higher.

Course Materials and Resources:

Required Course Materials:

- Textbook: College Algebra 5th ed., Stewart, Redlin, and Watson
- WebAssign access code www.webassign.net
- Tablet PC
- Graphing calculator (optional)

AEC and Other Educational Support Resources:

- Free math tutoring is available in the AEC. When studying in the AEC, you need to sign in and out on the AEC log-in computer AND check in with the math tutor on duty.
- Individual assistance with the instructor is available by appointment
- Practice problems for the post-test are available at http://www.mcm.edu/academic/DEVS_practice_problems/index.htm

Course Policies:

Attendance: You are required to attend all classes **and** labs. You must inform me via phone, email or in person **before** class in order for the absence to be considered excused. Three tardies will be considered as an unexcused absence. If you have more than 5 unexcused absences (classes and

labs together) or you miss three classes consecutively you may be dropped from the class!

Excused absences include:

1. Death in the family.
2. Documented illness (nurse or doctor's note).
3. A school event approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs office.

All other absences are considered unexcused.

Grade Determination:

Exams (5)	50%
Final Exam	15%
WebAssign Homework	20%
Attendance /Quizzes	15%
	100%

+/- Grade System:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72, etc...

In order to pass this course you must score at least 70% on the module one post-test AND earn a grade of C- or higher in the class. Students must continually enroll in the required mathematics sequence until their math requirement for graduation is met.

Make-up Work: Make-up exams will only be given for excused absences and it is your responsibility to schedule a time within one week of the exam date. There are no make-ups for quizzes.

Calculators: Calculators will be used at times in this course. However, a graphing calculator will be required for the subsequent courses Intermediate Algebra (Module 2) and College Algebra (Module 3).

Cell Phones: Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and out of sight during class. Violation of this policy may result in a pop quiz for the entire class.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating and Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Failure to do your own work will result in a zero on the particular exam or assignment in question.

Special Needs: McMurry University abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no otherwise qualified student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap". If you have a documented disability that may impact your performance in this class and for which you may be requesting accommodation, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office, located in Old Main Room 102. Arrangements will be made for students needing special accommodations.

Major Projects, Required Activities, and Assignments:

- **Homework:** All homework will be assigned during class. Some assignments will be from the book, others will be done online through WebAssign. You will be required to complete the homework and submit it before the due date. You must show all work in order to receive credit for the assignment.
- **Quizzes:** You will be given periodic announced/unannounced attendance quizzes. Quizzes will take no more than 5 minutes and will be given promptly at the start of class. If you arrive after the quiz you will not be allowed to make it up and you will receive a zero for that quiz. There are no make-ups on quizzes.
- **Exams:** Exams will be closed book and no notes. Each exam will cover all the material from the last test to that point and the final exam will cover everything. If you miss an exam, you need to notify me immediately and you will be given one day to make up the test.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be comprehensive and will be comprised of the post-test and any material covered since the last course exam. Students passing the course with a C- or better must score at least 70% on the post-test to move into DEVS 0330 Intermediate Algebra.

Tentative Course Schedule:

DEVS 0320 Introductory Algebra

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Spring 2009

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Jan 12	Diagnostic Test	6	Exam #3 (P.7-P.8)
14	Syllabus	9 – 13	No Class (Spring Break)
16	P.1	16	1.1
19	P.2	18	1.2
21	P.2	20	1.2
23	P.3	23	1.3
26	P.3	25	1.3
28	Review	27	1.4
30	Exam #1 (P.1-P.3)	30	1.4
Feb 2	P.4	April 1	Review
4	P.4	3	Exam #4 (1.1-1.4)
6	P.5	6	1.5
9	P.5	8	1.5
11	P.6	10 – 13	Easter Holidays
13	P.6	15	1.6
16	Review	17	1.6
18	Exam #2 (P.4-P.6)	20	1.7
20	P.7	22	1.7
23	P.7	24	Review
25	P.8	27	Exam #5 (1.5-1.7)
27	P.8	29	Final Review
Mar 2	P.8	May 1	Practice Exam
4	Review	4 – 8	Final Exam

**Remember that the class schedule is subject to change at any time. You will be notified during class of any changes.

In addition to this schedule, you are required to attend your scheduled one hour lab per week.

**Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes
and their Linkage to
Program and University Goals and Outcomes.**

Course Number and Title

Desired Student Learning Outcomes for this course	Linked to which departmental program goal(s)	Linked to which institutional goal(s)?	Types of evidence that might be used to demonstrate student achievement of objectives & goals
Demonstrate an understanding of basic mathematical operations.	DEVS: 2,3,4 Assessment Plan Outcome: 2	2,6,8	Quizzes, homework, exams
Demonstrate an understanding of the elementary algebra concepts necessary for success in DEVS 0330 Intermediate Algebra or higher.	DEVS: 1,2,3,4 Assessment Plan Outcome: 1,2	2,6,8	Quizzes, homework, exams. C- or better in class. 70 or better on post-test.

Institutional Goals:

2. Students are equipped for successful careers and post-graduate education.
6. Students will grow as whole persons – spiritually, emotionally, morally, intellectually, socially, and physically – in a community where these qualities are nurtured.
8. The institution will engage in an ongoing pursuit of excellence in curricula, programs, and policies.

The Developmental Studies (DEVS) program is not a department. It is a program consisting of five content based courses and one study skills course. Departmental goals:

1. insure proper placement of students into courses appropriate for their skill level;
2. provide pre-college level courses in the areas of mathematics, reading, and writing;
3. work closely with AEC staff in order to provide tutorial support for students enrolled in DEVS courses;
4. work closely with other departments to insure that DEVS curriculum provides students with the skills necessary to transition into college-level courses.

Intended outcomes for students in the DEVS program assessment plan:

1. Students will be placed in the courses appropriate for their skill level.
2. Students will acquire college level entry skills in mathematics.
3. Students will acquire college level entry skills in writing.
4. Students will acquire college level entry skills in reading.