

San José State University
Fall 2015
Math-8: College Algebra
Section 03: MW noon–1:15pm
Section 05: MW 4:30pm–5:45pm
DH-416

Instructor: Jeffery Cavallaro

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Office hours: MWF 9am–10am

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Texts: *College Algebra and Calculus: An Applied Approach*, Larson and Hodgkins, **2nd edition**. Make sure that you have the second edition and not the first. The webassign combo-pack is optional — we are not be using webassign, but you may find the included ebook and teaching materials helpful. Note that this is the same book that is used in Math-71.

Calculator: You should have a “scientific calculator” (e.g., TI-30X) for use on quizzes, exams, and the final. You are *not* allowed to use either a graphing calculator (e.g., TI-83) or a calculator that can do symbolic algebra (e.g., TI-89 or TI-92) on quizzes, exams, or the final; however, you may use the more advanced calculators to check your homework answers (after you have attempted the problems!).

Learning Objectives. In this course you will master the algebra skills required for later math classes, understand and apply fundamental ideas about functions, and study some specific types of functions (e.g., polynomials, exponentials, logarithms). You will use mathematical methods to solve quantitative (word) problems and arrive at conclusions based on numerical and graphical data. These learning objectives, as well as the minimum 500 word writing requirement (homework, quizzes, and exams), satisfy the Area B4 (Mathematical Concepts) GE requirement.

Math 8W. You are strongly encouraged to register and participate in the workshop that corresponds to this class. Math 8W is a 1 unit class (two sessions/week) where you will work in teams on problems, aided by a workshop facilitator. Although you are not required to take Math 8W, experience has shown that students who take the workshop are more successful than those who do not.

Canvas. All class communications will be via canvas (sjsu.instructure.com). All SJSU students are assigned a canvas account and all Math-8 students should be assigned to a Math-8 section course. All assignments and grades will be available in canvas. Please use canvas for any public discussions; however, feel free to email me directly for more personal issues.

Class. Bring your textbook and calculator to class every day. *Anything* covered in class is fair game for quizzes and exams (unless otherwise stated), so don't miss class. If you do miss a class then it is your responsibility to get with one of your classmates to determine what you missed. The last day of class is Monday, 12/7.

Time Expectations. The standard expectation for a 3-unit class at SJSU is that you will spend at least 9 hours per week working on the class — 3 hours in the classroom and a minimum of 6 hours on homework and studying.

Holidays. Class will not meet on 9/7 (Labor Day) or 11/11 (Veteran's Day).

Reading. Reading is assigned each Wednesday for the material that will be covered in lecture during the following week. It will be announced in class and recorded on canvas. The proper way to read a math text is to read it through once quickly, then go back and read it more carefully (as many times as needed), working through all examples.

Homework. Homework is assigned on each Monday and will be recorded on canvas, but it will not be collected. Math is learned by doing, so you must do the homework if you expect to pass this class. In fact, quiz and exam problems will strongly resemble the assigned homework problems. You may work on homework in teams; however, it is vital that you individually know how to do the problems instead of leaning on your team. Assigned homework problems may be discussed in class, in workshop, and during office hours. Solutions will be posted on canvas on Friday so that you have the weekend to check your work.

Quizzes. A 20-30 minute quiz is given each Monday (except for exam weeks) at the start of class. Quizzes cover the reading, lecture, and homework material from the previous week. Quizzes are in-class, closed-book, and closed-notes unless specified otherwise; however, a simple scientific calculator is allowed. Instead of a note card, I will supply any hints that I think are reasonable. The first quiz is **Monday, Aug 31**. There are no make-ups; however, only your top 10 quiz scores will be counted.

Exams. There will be 3 non-cumulative exams (tentatively) scheduled on the following Wednesdays: 9/30, 10/28, and 11/25. Exams will last the entire class period, cover all new material since the last exam, and follow the same rules as the quizzes. *You must plan to take the exams at their scheduled times* A missed exam for anything other than an SJSU officially-recognized excuse will receive a 0. In particular, the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Thanksgiving week are *not* SJSU holidays and travel plans are not an acceptable excuse. Missed exams due to valid excuses will be treated on a case-by-case basis at the instructor's discretion.

Final. The final exam is cumulative and is scheduled for **Saturday, 12/12, 9:45am–noon**. All sections of Math-8 are taking the same final at the same time, and the exam *must* be taken at that time. Any and all excuses must be discussed directly with the math office (MH-308). Once again, travel arrangements are not a valid excuse, so don't plan to leave town prior to noon on 12/12. The final exam follows the same rules as the

quizzes and exams; however, a 3×5 notecard is allowed. A sample final is available on canvas.

Grading. Your semester grade is determined as follows: Quizzes 20%; Exams 1, 2, and 3 20% each; and Final 20%. Grades given: A+ (97–100), A (93–96), A- (90–92), B+ (87–89), B (83–86), B- (80–82), C+ (77–79), C (73–76), C- (70–72), D (60–69), otherwise F. Note that you need to get a C or better to satisfy the Area B4 (Mathematical Concepts) GE requirement.

Academic Integrity. Your commitment to learning (as shown by your enrollment at SJSU) and SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy require you to be honest in all of your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. See: www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct.

Disabilities. If you need course adaptations or accommodations due to a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Accessible Education Center to establish a record of their disability.

Tutoring. Peer tutoring is available to all SJSU students, free of charge, through:

- The College of Science Advising Center (www.sjsu.edu/cosac)
- Peer Connections (peerconnections.sjsu.edu)