

Math 105: Preparation for College Mathematics

Spring 2017

instructor: landon rabern
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class webpage: bit.ly/precalculus2017
class meetings: 8:00 AM–8:50 AM MWF in STA 215 (lecture / group work)
8:00 AM–8:50 AM T in STA 215 (practice)
office hours: 9:00 AM–9:59 AM MWF in STA 320
textbook: *Pre-Calculus, 6E*, by Stewart, Redlin, and Watson

What is this class about?

We will learn all about numbers as well as various machines that take numbers as input and output other numbers. We will encounter many sorts of numbers, *rational* ones, *irrational* ones, *transcendental* ones and even *imaginary* ones. The machines that operate on our numbers we call *functions*, there are a few basic types of such machines: *polynomials*, *exponentials* and *trigonometric* functions. We will see how to break these machines down into the smaller machines they are made out of and how to make machines that undo other machines' work. Finally, we will imagine how these various machines could be used by our engineers to tame the natural world.

Homework

I can only show you the door. You're the one that has to walk through it.

To achieve fluency in this subject, you will need to immerse yourself in the material. Working tons of problems is a great way to do this. How many problems? My recommendation is to work problems of a given type until they become easy for you.

I will put lists of practice problems on the class webpage. To encourage you to make working problems a regular activity, you will need to maintain a journal containing your

practice work. These journals will be inspected periodically. There are many ways you could structure such a journal, we will go over some basic guidelines in class.

On Tuesdays we practice. There are many ways we could structure practice time, I have some ideas on what works well, but the practice is entirely for your benefit, so you will determine what works best.

Computing devices

We will not need calculators, computers or brain implants for this class.

Exams

There will be two in-class exams and then a final exam during finals week. The purpose of the exams is to test your understanding of, and ability to reason about, the mathematical concepts. Since you can use your textbook as well as any other written material, no memorization is required; however, these exams occur in a finite time period, so rapid recall of facts will serve you well.

Graded work breakdown

what	%	when
journal	15	random times
participation	15	always
exam #1	15	TBA, in class
exam #2	25	TBA, in class
final exam	30	TBA, in finals week

Help

If you need help or just want to know more about something, please come to my scheduled office hours or set up another time to meet. In addition to my office hours, there are several undergraduate mathematics teaching assistants who hold regular hours.

Attendance

If you do not attend class regularly, it is less likely that you will learn.