Hunter College
of the City University of New York
Department of Mathematics and Statistics

COURSE SYLLABUS
Math 125.05 – Precalculus
Summer 2018

Instructor: Chelsea Colón
Sections: Math 125.05
Time: Mondays - Thursdays 9:50 – 11:55am from May 30th – July 11th
Room: 922HE (Hunter East 9th Floor)
Email: ChelseaMath101@gmail.com (I promise to respond within a couple hours – never hesitate to email me. And yes, my email address says "101" even though this is a "125" course.)
Office Hours: No *official* hours – I am almost always available right after class.

Please come to office hours. I am your instructor, and I am your best resource. It's like having *free* tutoring.

Prerequisite:
A grade of C or better in M101 or the appropriate score on the Compass exam or Accuplacer exam. Also, you must obtain a grade of C or better in Math 125 to move on to Math 150.

Textbook
You are **not** required to have a physical copy of the textbook. You **are** required to purchase a MyMathLab access code (which you can do through their website). MyMathLab is the online platform you will be using to complete homework and quizzes online, and it comes with an electronic version of the textbook.

4th Custom Edition for Hunter College with MyMathLab of the 6th Edition of Robert Blitzer's *Precalculus*, Pearson Custom Publishing. *Note: you **must** buy a new textbook for this course, in order to have access to a new MyMathLab access code.* **Only** purchase the custom edition from The Hunter College Online Bookstore or at Shakespeare and Company (Lexington Avenue between 68 and 69 streets). Price: $106.66. The e-text with MyMathLab can be purchased by going to www.pearsonmylab.com. Price: $103.95.

An Aside on Teaching Math
In math, there are usually several ways to approach a problem, as well as several ways to teach and understand various concepts. If the instructor teaches something differently than how a student has previously learned it, that is fine. In most cases, students may use their own methods but they should check with the instructor first.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

1. Identify and describe properties of functions and their graphs.
2. Find the distance and midpoint between two points.
3. Determine the standard form of the equation of a circle and its graph.
4. Model real-world problems using functions.
5. Simplify expressions and perform operations using the complex number system.
6. Analyze, graph, and apply transformations to linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, and inverse trigonometric functions.
7. Utilize the functions above to solve a variety of application problems.
8. Employ radian measure and demonstrate facility with the unit circle.
9. Verify trigonometric identities and use the sum, difference, double, and half-angle identities.
10. Apply the Law of Sines and Law of Cosines to solve triangles and application problems.
11. Solve polynomial and rational inequalities.
12. Solve exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric equations.
13. Solve systems of linear and non-linear equations.

Sections Covered:

Ch.1, 2.1-2.7, Ch. 3, Ch. 4, 5.1-5.3, 5.5, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.4

Blackboard

You are responsible for checking BlackBoard daily. Announcements, course documents, and lecture slides will be posted there (lecture slides are posted after every class). It is not the instructor's fault if you unaware of something that was posted on BlackBoard.

Best Practices

- Attend each class. Math, by nature, is a very cumulative subject, missing just one lecture can set you back in the course. If you are sick or have a family emergency and must miss class, you must still read the section(s) that you missed before the next class.
- Take good notes, and keep course materials organized.
- Make sure to complete all the MyMathLab assignments in a timely manner (students tend to underestimate how much time is required to complete these)
- If you need extra help, go to your instructor's office hours or to the math tutoring center.

Grading Policy
There will be 3 in-class exams and a final departmental exam. The final exam will count as 2 exams. Of these 5 parts, the lowest is dropped, and the remaining 4 parts are averaged to obtain the exam average. In particular, the final exam can be worth 40% or 20% of your exam average. Furthermore, since an exam is dropped, there are **no make-up exams.**

Your final average is calculated as follows:
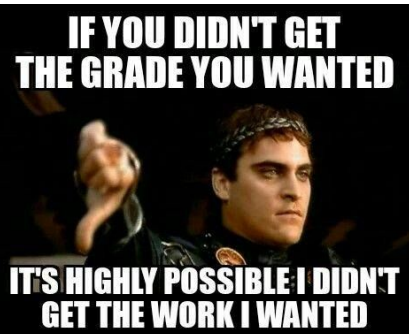
80%   Exams

20%   MyMathLab Homework

The letter grade is determined as follows:

Grade	Percent
A+	97.5-100
A	92.5-97.4
A-	90.0-92.4
B+	87.5-89.9
B	82.5-87.4
B-	80.0-82.4
C+	77.5-79.9
C	70.0-77.4
D	60.0-69.9
F	0-59.9

when you ask your teacher for your final grade

IG: YIKYAKAPP

my life

IF YOU DIDN'T GET THE GRADE YOU WANTED

IT'S HIGHLY POSSIBLE I DIDN'T GET THE WORK I WANTED

Other things to keep in mind regarding the grading policy:
- To receive an incomplete, you must have taken at least two of the in-class exams, have a C average on those exams, and have a legitimate excuse for missing the final exam.
- If you stop attending the course and do not withdraw you will receive a grade of WU, which basically acts as a "soft F".
- You may elect to take the course on a **credit/no credit** basis if you are eligible. To be eligible to use the credit/no credit option, you will need to have attended most class periods, competed most of the homework, and taken all the exams including the final exam. The credit/no credit option must be presented to and signed off by the instructor **prior** to the instructor handing out the final exam. Always check with an advisor to ensure that you can use the credit/no credit option.

Exams

There are a total of four exams and five exam grades - three from the in-class exams and a cumulative final, which counts twice. The lowest exam grade is dropped from the total exam score. If the final is the lowest score, then the final only counts once. Since one exam is dropped, there are **_no makeup exams_**. If you must miss an exam, it will count as a zero and will be considered as your lowest, dropped exam grade.

You are permitted to use a **scientific calculator** on exams – **graphing calculators, cell phone calculators, smart watches and anything else that is not a scientific calculator are not permitted.** Electronic devices (other than a scientific calculator) must be kept away and out of site during exams.

Exam dates will be announced as the course progresses.

Exam Corrections

A lot can be learned from one's mistakes, therefore, students will be given the opportunity to compete test corrections in order to earn back up to 25% of the points that were missed on the exam. For example, if a student earns a 60 on the exam (meaning they lost 40 points), and they complete all of the test corrections perfectly, 25% of 40 is 10, the students exam grade will then increase to 70. Test corrections will be due **two classes** after the exam is handed back.

To earn back 25% of the points missed, corrections must include the following three parts:
   (i)   A clear identification of the mistake that was made, and *why* it is incorrect (1 – 2 sentences).
   (ii)   The problem work out *correctly* from start to finish, with *all* work shown.
   (iii)   A one-sentence explanation for each line of work that is shown. This explanation should be structured as "In this step, I did _____ because _____."

A test corrections guide, which will show you how to write your corrections and explanations, will be posted on BlackBoard.

***Test corrections are to be completed on a *separate* piece of paper, and attached to your exam. Do not change anything on the original exam. ***

Calculators

Scientific calculators are allowed during the exams. Graphing calculators, smartwatches, phones, tablets, computers, and other electronics are not allowed during exams. Sharing of calculators during exams is also not allowed.

Tutoring

Drop-in tutoring table tutoring, computers, textbooks, and audiovisual materials are available at The Dolciani Mathematics Learning Center, located at the Silverstein Student Success Center 7th Floor Hunter East. **THIS TUTORING IS COMPLETELY FREE – PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT AND DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.**

Homework

We will be using an online homework system called MyMathLab. Homework will count as 20% of your grade. You will need a registration code that comes with the purchase of a new textbook and our course code which is (colon34908).

Assignments will be due every Monday by 10:00am, except for the diagnostic homework assignment which will be due on Tuesday, June 5th by 11:59pm; furthermore, if there is an upcoming exam, some homework assignments may be due right before the exam rather than on the Monday of that week.

If a student is unsure of how to complete a problem, students can have MyMathLab show them a step-by-step of how to complete it. There is a MyMathLab orientation assignment (not graded), which should acquaint you with this online system.

If a student answers a question incorrectly, they will have the opportunity to choose "Similar Question" on MyMathLab; if they answer the similar question correctly, they will earn back the credit that they had initially missed. There is no reason for anyone to earn less than a 90% on the homework.

If the student cannot purchase an access code immediately, they can still create an account with a 14-day trial on MyMathLab by going to www.pearsonmylab.com; after 14 days, the student will be required to purchase the full access. And yes, the student's work will be saved.

***There will be no extensions granted for homework assignments for any reason.
Please do not ask.***

Attendance

Attendance is required and will be taken every class. Students are allowed up to 3 unexcused absences, after which, each unexcused absence will lower their final grade by one mark (e.g. from an A to an A-). An absence is only excused if the student shows the instructor an official doctor's note.

If a student is absent, they should *not* ask the instructor for missed notes or to reteach a lesson, and they should not ask questions about the lesson before reading it; they should ask a classmate for missed notes, read the PowerPoints on Blackboard, read the corresponding section in the textbook, or a combination of the three. It is strongly suggested that students exchange contact information with one another.

If a student is absent, they must read up on the sections that they missed before attending the next class. Not doing so could cause a lot of confusion, as the concepts continually build on one another; it is very hard to move on when one has a gap in information.

Tardiness

The instructor will keep track of who is late. Coming in late is not only disruptive to your classmates, but it hurts you because you are missing the material. We all know what it feels like to walk into class late and have no idea what is going on; let's try to avoid this.

Academic Integrity:

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

***Electronic devices** (with the exception of scientific calculators) **are not permitted** on exams.*

Seriously, just don't cheat. Have some confidence in yourself. You can do it ☺

Disability:

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room 1214B Hunter East to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212-772-4857)/TTY (212-650-3230).

If you have a learning accommodation, you must let me know ASAP. If you have a testing accommodation, forms for alternate testing accommodations must be filled out at least 2 weeks prior to any exam.

Sexual Misconduct:

"In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

1. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
2. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:
http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual- Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf

<u>Tips for Surviving Any Math Class:</u>
- Practice.
    - This seems obvious, but students often take this lightly. You may think you understand when you watch your teacher do it on the board, but **you don't truly understand it until you can do it for yourself.**

- Read the textbook.
    - This might sound tedious, but just try it. As a student, I initially scoffed at the idea of actually *reading* a math textbook but once I did it, I found it much more beneficial than just looking at the examples.

- Use different resources.
    - Go online. Look up different websites. Use different textbooks. Watch videos. Everyone learns differently. Everyone teaches differently. You might understand certain explanations better than others.
    - Seriously. Just type math topic into a Google or YouTube search, and you'll see *tons* of results.

- Group up.
    - Study together. Talk to each other. Make a groupchat. Get matching "I Love Math" tattoos together. Help each other (helping someone actually helps you a lot too, because you are being forced to explain the concepts).

- Websites (I have used these myself and can attest to them):
    - http://patrickjmt.com (great video explanations)
    - http://www.wolframalpha.com (great for solving problems and checking answers – they provide step-by-step explanations if you sign up – I think a certain amount is free. Also great for other subjects)
    - https://www.khanacademy.org (This one I've never actually used, but I know they have tons of videos and practice problems.)

- Apps
    - Mathway
        - Shows you clear, step-by-step solutions in an easy to read format.
        - Offers several options for how you want to solve a math problem.
        - You can also take a picture of a problem and have the app solve it for you.
    - Khan Academy
        - App version of the website.
        - Several videos and practice problems for a wide range of subjects (even non-math subjects).