



Middlesex Community College, Middletown CT  
Course Syllabus

**COURSE:** College Algebra with Technology, MAT173 Spring 2017 Online w/Campus Requirement

**CRN:** 1360      **Credits:** 4

**Instructor:** Kegan Samuel, Ph.D.

**Room and Meeting times:** Online

**Office:** Wheaton 310

**Telephone:** 860-343-5714

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**Office Hours:** Monday/Wednesday 11:00AM-12:00PM

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30PM-1:00PM, or by appointment

**Pre-requisites:** Eligible for ENG\*101 and MAT \*137 with a grade of "C" or better OR eligible for ENG\*101 and math placement.

**Course Description:** This course continues the algebra sequence. Topics include operations with complex numbers; functions; numeric, algebraic, and graphic techniques as applied to the following functions: polynomial, rational, radical, piecewise, and absolute value; modeling and applications using the above functions; exponential expressions and equations; logarithmic expressions and equations; conic sections. Optional: Systems of nonlinear equations. A graphing calculator is required for this course.

**Required Materials:**

- Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization, 5e, by Gary Rockswold, Pearson, 2014, either in hard copy, or available as the ebook after purchasing access to MyMathLab. See below for Online Material.
- Graphing Calculator –TI 84/TI 83 plus preferred
- Graph Paper
- Online Material: Access to MyMathLab <http://pearsonmylab.com> - This provides access to a lot of study resources along with ALL homework exercises, quizzes and tests. MyLab/Mastering or MyMathLab (MML) requires a course ID (posted in an announcement) and an Access Code to register (needs to be purchased). See more details under MyMathLab below.

**General Expectations:** College Algebra can be a very challenging course when taken in a traditional classroom. Taking the course online can make it that much more difficult to stay on top of the material. It is crucial that you are doing work several times each week during this semester to be successful. Please do not wait until the weekend the assignments are due to complete them. If we were to meet in a classroom, you would be spending about 3 hours in class, and a minimum of another 4-5 hours outside of class doing work. Please keep that in mind to give yourself a guideline as to how many hours you will need to dedicate to this course.

**Blackboard Learn:** The course is set up using Blackboard Learn. I am often going to abbreviate this to BB. In BB you will find links to complete your homework and assessments, read brief summaries on your weekly topics, follow the calendar, contact me and post discussions. There are also links for help on BB. It is your responsibility to be logging on to BB and checking for announcements and following along with the course calendar. There is a hotline available for BB help 24/7. The number for this is 866 940 1928.

**Communication with me:** Please contact me through Blackboard Messages or email. To contact me through Blackboard, go to BB Messages on the navigation bar on the left and you will be able to find my name to send me a message. Please allow 24 hours for me to get back to you once you have emailed me.

**Calendar:** You will find a one-page calendar with the topics, required activities and due dates for each week of the semester under *Calendar of Due Dates* on the left menu in BB. I strongly encourage you to print this out during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of classes and use it as a reference each week so you don't miss any due dates.

**Homework:** Each week you will be assigned a homework assignment that you are to complete using My Lab Mastering/MyMathLab, abbreviated MML. You get to MML by using the link on Blackboard. **With your textbook, you should have purchased a MyMathLab Access Kit. In that kit is an access code that you will need in order to register with My Lab/Mastering.**

Once you have registered for the first time in MML, you can either access the course through BB, or log in directly to MML by going to [www.pearsonmylab.com](http://www.pearsonmylab.com). Both links will take you to the same login page.

You can work on the homework as many times as you like before the due date. **You will get three attempts at each question before MML marks that question incorrect. When that happens, you may choose "Similar Problem" and you will be given a new problem to try.** All homework assignments are due at the end of the week the topic is covered. For example, MML HW #1 is due Sunday January 31. It is the expectation that you work on the material during the week/weekend, complete the homework by the end of the week and then move on to the next week's material. **HW assignments will open each Monday morning.** Before attempting MML homework, you will want to read the weekly notes and follow along with the videos, complete the required activities (and go through even the ones that aren't required). Doing these things before attempting HW will make the time it takes to complete the HW each week much shorter. **Because this class is online and you are doing the work independently, it is critical that you stay on top of the material. Please make sure you are submitting on time! There will be an automatic 25% penalty for all late homework.**

**Quizzes/Tests:** Your quizzes and tests are also taken in MyMathLab. Exams are timed, so you will have to complete them in one sitting. Once you open the quiz/exam, the timer will start. The reason tests are timed is to make sure that everyone has been fully prepared and mastered the material BEFORE taking the test. If you find that you are running out of time on these assessments, it is

most likely because you have not practiced enough. If you are spending a good deal of time looking through your book/notes while you are taking a test, you will almost definitely run out of time. A short description of each exam, including amount of time you have to complete will be in your weekly notes. All tests/quizzes must be completed by midnight on the due date. See the calendar in BB for specific dates. Each week you will have at least a quiz or test due, as well as your discussion and weekly homework in MML. The expectation is that you are working on the homework all week and you take the test once you have completed that and feel comfortable with the material. Tests/Quizzes will be available the Monday before the due date. You will be able to view your test grades as soon as you have submitted your answers, but you can only review your answers once the due date has passed. Please follow the calendar so you do not miss a due date. **No late test/quizzes will be accepted without a valid excuse (doctor's note, etc).**

\*\*\*\*Note about partial credit—My Lab/Mastering will give partial credit if you get one part of a question correct but not another part. However, since it is a computer grading these tests/quizzes, it will not award you partial credit if you have an answer wrong due to rounding, or some other very minor error. Once each due date passes, please review your test/quiz in MML. You can email me if you feel there are some questions that you deserve partial credit on, along with your work. I can adjust the grade manually if I find you deserve more credit than you were given.

**Final Exam:** You will be required take your final exam on campus during one of the two provided times. The two options for times will be provided to you during the first month of class so that you can plan ahead. The format of the exam will be exactly the same as every other exam, and taken on MML. The exam will be cumulative, and a set of review questions will be provided in MM.

**YOU MUST EARN AT LEAST A 60% ON THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE. Failure to earn a 60% will result in an F for the course, regardless of your calculated average.**

**Discussions:** You will have weekly discussions throughout semester. The due dates are on your calendar. Go to DISCUSSIONS on the navigation bar in BB to get full description and to post your response to the discussion. Some of these discussions will be open ended questions like "Tell the class one thing that you are having difficulty with this week", and some will be problems that relate to the material we are covering.

**Use of the Calculator:** We will use the graphing calculator for almost every topic we cover. It is extremely important that you get comfortable using the calculator from the very beginning of class. The best calculator for you to have is the TI-83 or 84. Your textbook also provides the steps for using the TI graphing calculators.

\*\*There is a great Calculator Guide in MML, under Tools for Success. Check it out once you get registered with MyMathLab.

**Grading:** Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

Homework	14 x 15 pts = 210 pts
Quizzes	13 x 15 pts = 195 pts
Discussions	14 x 5 pts = 70pts
Tests	3 x 125 pts = 375pts
Final	150 pts
	1000 pts

The final grade will be your total points divided by 10.

**Grading Scale:** The following is the grading scale for MxCC College:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
93 – 100	90 – 92	87 – 89	83 – 86	80 – 82	77 – 79	73 – 76	70 – 72	67 – 69	63 – 66	60 – 62	< 60

**Tutoring:** MxCC offers **FREE TUTORING** on campus (Chapman Hall 711), and at the Meriden Center. For more information, visit the College Learning Center Website (click "College Learning Center" on the [www.mxcc.comnet.edu](http://www.mxcc.comnet.edu) homepage) or call (860) 343-5770. Take advantage of these services and start to excel in your classes!

### IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICIES!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/). Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/](http://www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/).

**Note:** Please note that this syllabus is tentative and the instructor may make changes during the semester.