

Nebraska Wesleyan University
Math 1100: College Algebra
Section 3
Spring 2015

Instructor: Austin Mohr
Text: College Algebra: Concepts and Contexts
First Edition
Stewart, Redlin, Watson, and Panman
Time: MWF 10a – 11a
Room: Olin 111
Office: Olin 109D
Office Hours: MWF 11a – 12p, MWF 1p – 2p, or by appointment
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Course Website: AustinMohr.com/math1100
Final Exam: Monday, May 11 at 8a

Course Description

A study of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities and their graphs; systems of equations and inequalities, algebraic exponential and logarithmic functions and their graphs.

Grading Scale

Grade cutoffs for A, B, C, and D are 90%, 80%, 70%, and 60%, respectively. The additional “+” and “-” grades will be awarded according to the following example: B+ (87-89%), B (83-86%), B- (80-82%).

Assignments

Participation	1 point total
Required Homework	4 points total (combined pre- and post-class homework)
Extra Credit Homework	2 extra credit points total
Projects	1 point each (probably 4 or 5 projects)
Exams	4 points each (three in-class and a comprehensive final)

Things to Buy

- WebAssign Access Code: Purchase at the bookstore or online at WebAssign.net.
- Printed Textbook (optional): Your WebAssign access code grants access to a digital version of the textbook. You have the option of attending class with either the paper textbook or an internet-enabled device (laptop or tablet) capable of viewing the e-book.
- Calculator (optional): A standard graphing calculator (such as TI-83) may be useful but is not required if you bring an internet-enabled device to use WolframAlpha.

WebAssign

All homework will be submitted through WebAssign. Sign up for an account at WebAssign.net using the access code you purchased and the class key **nebrwesleyan 5526 5618**.

Daily Routine

Bring every day:

- Internet-enabled device such as laptop or tablet. This will allow you to access the textbook and WolframAlpha (which is a free service that can do everything a graphing calculator can).

or

- Paper Textbook and Graphing Calculator

Before class:

- Read the textbook pages or watch the video specified in the homework assignment on WebAssign.
- Complete the homework assignment (labeled “Pre-Class”). Pre-class assignments are due by 4 am on the day it is to be discussed. (The point is that you hopefully sleep between the time you complete the homework and the time you come to class to discuss it.)

During class:

- I will have a few things to say to the whole class.
- Afterwards, I will give some questions to try in groups for the remainder of the time. Your solutions are *not* graded, but your willingness to work with classmates during this time constitutes your participation grade.

After class:

- I will post a short follow-up homework (labeled “Post-Class”) on WebAssign. Post-class assignments are due one week from the day the relevant material was discussed in class.
- Consider working extra credit assignments (labeled “Extra Credit”) on WebAssign, paying special attention to the ideas you found most challenging. Each extra credit assignment is available for the entire semester.

Extra Help

- Me: Come to my office hours or email/call me to schedule another time.
- Math Tutoring Center: Walk-in tutoring is provided by Nebraska Wesleyan mathematics majors every Monday through Thursday from 6p – 9p in the Cooper Center.

Accommodations

Nebraska Wesleyan University seeks to maintain a supportive academic environment for students with disabilities. To ensure their equal access to all educational programs, activities, and services, federal law requires that students with disabilities notify the university, provide documentation, and request reasonable accommodations. If you need accommodation in this course, please notify me so that I can verify that the required documentation is filed with the Academic Affairs Office and that your accommodation plan is in place. You should also meet with Prof. Sandy McBride, the Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator (Old Main 126, 465-2346, smcbride@nebrwesleyan.edu).

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the basic principles of a university community. Nebraska Wesleyan University encourages and expects the highest standards of academic honesty from all students. The Student Code of Conduct states that “cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty” are subject to disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for additional information. Academically dishonest students may receive penalties up to and including receiving an F in the course.

Participation

Each individual in a group will have a clearly defined job to carry out as you work to understand the material and solve problems. S/he will keep that role for the entire day and receive a new role the next day so that everyone becomes proficient in all roles.

Role	Actions	Examples
Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be the first to engage with a problem • Keep your group on-track • Make sure everyone in your group participates • Watch the time spent on each step 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Here’s one way to approach this problem.” • “Let’s come back to this later if we have time.” • “Chris, what do you think about this idea?” • “We need to move on to the next step.”
Skeptic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help your group avoid coming to agreement too quickly • Question the applicability of techniques • Make sure all possibilities are explored • Suggest alternative ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What other possibilities are there?” • “How do you know this approach is valid?” • “Let’s try to look at this another way.” • “I’m not sure we’re on the right track.”
Recorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a scribe for your group (including insightful remarks from the Skeptic) • Check for understanding of all members • Make sure all members of your group agree on plans and actions • Summarize (restate) your group’s discussion and conclusions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “That’s an important objection. Let me copy it down.” • “Do we all understand this diagram?” • “Are we in agreement on this?” • “So here’s what we’ve decided.”