

**Southern Illinois University**  
**Math 108: College Algebra**  
**Section 7**  
**Spring 2008**

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**Instructor:** Austin Mohr  
**Text:** Algebra and Trigonometry  
3rd Edition  
Beecher, Penna, Bittinger  
**Time:** 2:00pm - 2:50pm MW      Engineering 322A  
2:00pm - 3:00pm TR      Faner 1032  
**Dept. Computer Lab:** Neckers 268  
**Office:** Neckers 262  
**Office Hours:** 3:00pm - 4:00pm TR  
2:00pm - 3:00pm F  
(or any day by appointment)  
**Email:** austinmohr@gmail.com  
**Website:** <http://www.austinmohr.com/>

## 1 About this Course

This particular section of Math 108 meets four days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Mondays and Wednesdays are traditional lecture sessions, while Tuesdays and Thursdays are lab sessions. During the lab sessions, we will work examples, quizzes, tests, etc. using MathXL. To access MathXL, you will need to know your SIU email address and password (to access the lab computers) and your MathXL access code (which comes with your text).

## 2 Course Description

The algebra of functions (polynomials, rational, exponential, logarithmic), graphing, conic sections, solving equations including systems. Credit is not given for both 108 and 111. Prerequisite: 107 or three years of college preparatory mathematics including the geometry and Algebra II. Students must present satisfactory placement scores or obtain the permission of the Department of Mathematics.

## 3 Help Sessions

From 4-9 p.m Monday thru Thursday and 7-9 p.m. on Sundays there is help available to you, no appointment necessary. There will be graduate assistants and undergraduate assistants located at the study tables on the north side of the 2nd floor of the B-Wing of Neckers (side closest to the Student Center). Go to <http://www.math.siu.edu/helpsess.shtml> for more information.

## 4 Grading Scale

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-	F

## 5 Assignments

Homework	150 points total
6 Quizzes	50 points total
6 Exams	300 points total
Final Exam	200 points
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Total	700 points

## 6 Attendance

Attendance will be monitored by means of a sign-in sheet. Every unexcused absence will be -5 points to your overall grade.

## 7 Homework

There will be a total of 30 homework assignments worth 5 points each (for a total of 150 points). All assignments are listed on MathXL along with their due dates. Assignments marked “Offline” are to be turned in on paper at the beginning of the appropriate class period. The others are to be completed online using the MathXL system. Since MathXL system does not allow for late submission of assignments, late work will not be accepted. Please note that you should be able to earn 100% on all homework assignments - if you miss a question, simply have MathXL generate a new one until you get it correct.

## 8 Quizzes

There will be a total of 6 quizzes worth 10 points each. The lowest quiz will be dropped, resulting in a total of 50 points for all the quizzes. All quizzes are to be completed using MathXL by their respective dates. As with homework, late quizzes will not be accepted.

## 9 Exams

There will be a total of 6 exams worth a total of 300 points. The exams are a combination of online and offline parts. There will be no makeups. If you do miss an exam (and your absence is excused), your final exam grade will be used to replace the missing exam grade.

## 10 Extra Credit Project

You may earn up to 35 points of extra credit by submitting independent work of some kind. You may choose from the list of options below, or come up with something of your own. Be sure to consult with me before beginning work or if you need help choosing a specific topic. The extra credit assignment will be due by May 2 (the last day of class).

Write a summary of a mathematical concept/application of your choice

Learn some additional topics from our text (or another text) not covered in class

Write a report on a mathematically-oriented book (biographies of mathematicians do not count)

Write a computer program to solve a simple problem (if you've never programmed before, I can help you get started)

## 11 Course Website

The course website is located at <http://www.austinmohr.com/> (use the Courses menu to find your particular course). The site will serve to host handouts (including the extra credit assignments), announcements, and some helpful links. Additionally, the course website has a comment box that allows you to send anonymous complaints, so you can always voice your opinion about the course or the lecturer. (For those of you that are worried about internet privacy, know that your IP address is protected by your ISP's privacy policy, and so I would not be permitted to trace it back to you even if I wanted.)

## 12 Calculators

As per University regulations, calculators are not permitted on any exam. The use of calculators for checking homework solutions is encouraged, however.