COURSE CONTRACT for MAT 109-002

3 credit hours     Algebra for College Students     Spring 2007

Instructor  Dr. Gail Mackin

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www.nku.edu/~math/courses/mat109/

Office Hours  Mondays - Friday: 11:00-11:50am, or by appointment.

Text  EXPLORATIONS IN COLLEGE ALGEBRA 3rd ed. by Kime, Clark & Michael.

Course Content  This course covers the algebraic, numerical, and graphical concepts and skills pertaining to mathematical functions. We will cover material from Chapters 1-8.

Note:  MAT 109 does not satisfy the mathematics General Education requirement.

Course Prerequisites  C or better in MAH 099 or, a Math ACT score of 20 or higher.

Time and Place  Class meets in ST 247 from 10:00-10:50am MWF.

Attendance Policy  I expect students to attend all classes. Your grade is directly and indirectly dependent upon your attendance. A number of missed classes will lower your participation points, decrease comprehension of the material and, hence, effect your success in the course.

Course Learning Objectives  Broad objectives are listed below:

• Explore function types across all three representations (numerical / graphical / algebraic)

• Develop algebraic manipulation skills and the concept of equivalent expressions through the context of function exploration.
- Develop algebraic solving skills for equations and inequalities
- Use algebraic knowledge and skills for applications, interpretation and problem solving
- Develop confidence in mathematical ability, appreciation for benefits of working in (math) community, ability to sustain focus on mathematical problem solving, and develop self-efficacy with respect to course content.

A very detailed list of learning objectives may be found on the MAT 109 website. http://www.nku.edu/math/courses/mat109/109objectives.pdf

**Course Policy** Modes of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and how these contribute to the learning objectives

- lectures demonstrate what is required to be learned and the application of the algebraic concepts to practical examples.
- homework assignments for self-study develop problem-solving skills and enable students to test and develop their knowledge and understanding.
- reading assignments to develop skills for reading mathematics and synthesizing new information with old.
- formatively assessed assignments provide practice in the application of logic and high level of rigor as well as feedback for the students and the lecturer on students’ progress. The midterm and final examinations assess the knowledge acquired and the ability to solve predictable and unpredictable problems.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>90% guarantees an A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>80% guarantees a B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>70% guarantees a C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra Skills Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>60% guarantees a D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes &amp; Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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There will be three in-class exams announced a week in advance. Tentative dates are the week of January 29, the week of February 26 and the week of April 8. Make-up exams will be offered at my discretion, but only in the
case of a documented illness, university function or family emergency. I expect the student to be responsible for informing me of any such situation at the earliest possible moment.

The Algebra Skills Exam is designed to test basic algebraic skills needed for success in this course and subsequent math courses (MAT 112, MAT 114, MAT 119 and MAT 185). The material on this exam is considered prerequisite material (from MAH 099). The exam will be given in class on Friday, January 12, 2007.

There will be 10 problems. You must have at least 8 problems completely correct in order to pass the exam. **There will be no partial credit.** Having said this, please be assured that you may take the Algebra Skills Exam repeatedly until Friday, February 2, 2007. After this date a grade of 0 will be recorded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>8 correct</th>
<th>9 correct</th>
<th>10 correct</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12-Jan 19</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 22-Jan 26</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29-Feb 2</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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Online tutorials and practice problems for the material tested by the Algebra Skills Exam are available on my webpage under MAT 109. Note: You are responsible for mastering this material outside of class after the initial review in the first week of class. Class time will be spent on material from the text which utilizes these algebraic skills.

Reading and homework assignments will be assigned for each section covered. You should expect to spend 2 to 3 hours on reading and homework for each 50 minute class period. Quizzes will be given frequently. Quizzes will cover material in the reading and/or specific problems assigned for homework. It will be essential to read the text carefully prior to the class period in which it will be covered. Homework will be collected frequently and a subset of the problems will be graded. Homework problems should show all work needed for a well thought-out and complete answer. There will be no makeup quizzes, although I will drop the lowest grade.

The final exam will be comprehensive. The final exam is scheduled for 10:10am-12:10pm on Wednesday, May 2, 2007.

I hold students responsible for all announcements made in class. This includes schedules for exams, homework assignments and any other important announcements. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the notes from a class mate.
NOTE: You must show all details on all graded work in order to receive any credit.

**Important Dates** January 15 – Martin Luther King Day - No classes.
January 16 – Last day to ADD a class.
January 29 – Last day to DROP a class.
March 5-10 – Fall Break - No classes.
March 26 – Last day to withdraw without penalty.
April 27 – Last day of class.
April 28-May 4 – Finals.

**Cell Phones** Please make sure that all cell phones and other electrical devises are turned off upon entering the classroom. Only under very special circumstances will I allow a student to leave a cell phone on in class, but this must be discussed with me prior to class time.

**Honor Policy** Honesty in your academic work will develop into professional integrity. I do not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Any offense will be reported to the proper authorities. I expect you to follow the NKU Honor Code for all work in this class. For more information about the NKU Honor Code see www.nku.edu/deanstudents/HonorCode.htm

**NOTE** Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Office of Disability Services. Please contact the disability service office in University Center Suite 320 or by calling (859) 572-6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the disability services office for you to receive reasonable academic accommodations. Visit the disability services website at www.nku.edu/disability.

**Addendum** Suitable changes may be made to this course contract during the course of the semester.