

Syllabus for Math 107, *Fundamentals of Mathematics I*, Fall 2007

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Office Hours: Tu,Th 12:15pm-1:15pm, W 11:00am-12:00noon and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is the first in a series of three that are required for the IDLS major. Topics covered include the development of the rational numbers and operations with rational numbers. This course partially fulfills the requirements for licensure of prospective early childhood, elementary, and middle school teachers.

TEXT: Fundamental Mathematics for Elementary and Middle School Teachers, 3rd edition, Darken. The text will not be available for purchase until after Oct. 1, 2007. We will provide you with copies of the chapters until the book is available.

SUPPLIES: Ruler with both metric and American units, protractor, compass, Calculator

SPECIAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

IDLS Assessment Test: All IDLS majors are required to take a mathematics assessment test at the beginning of the Math 107 course and at the end of the Math 207 course. The assessment is given in Ashby lab on a drop-in basis and must be taken sometime during Aug. 27-Sept.10. Please be aware that a grade of I (INCOMPLETE) will be given if the test is NOT taken by Sept. 10. Your score on the assessment will NOT affect your grade in this course. Please do as well as you can on the assessment. JMU uses this as a form of evaluation of the IDLS major. You will be given further printed instructions. These are available on Blackboard under Course Documents.

Mastery Skills Test: -NO Calculators! (40 pts) Basic math skills test (20 problems) will be used as a tool to determine required proficiency with basic arithmetic and elementary algebra. Before taking the skills test you should review by taking the Sample Skills Quizzes (Appendix A) and go over the Review of Basic Skills (Blackboard Course Documents). The test will consist of 20 problems and passing requires at least 18 correct. The test will be given in class on September 18. If you miss 2 or fewer, you have passed and earn 40 points. If you miss more than 2, you should come to see me to go over the ones you missed prior to retaking the test. You will have two opportunities to retake the test to reach the required proficiency.

First retake: Thursday, October 4 5:00 - 7:00 PM Location TBD

(You earn 25 points if you miss no more than 2.)

Second retake: Thursday, October 18 5:00 - 7:00 PM Location TBD

(You earn 10 points if you miss no more than 2.)

If you have not passed the skills test after the second retake, you will *lose* 10 points from your point total. To earn 0 points (instead of 10), one final opportunity to pass will be available by scheduling an appointment with me between November 1st and November 15th.

NOTE: Your score on this test **WILL** affect your grade. If you pass on the first try, you will be starting the semester with 100% on something worth almost one half of an exam. *If you do not pass this test on the third or fourth try, your final grade WILL be one full letter grade LOWER than it would be without counting the score on this test.* Therefore it is of **UTMOST IMPORTANCE** that you take this test seriously and study hard for it to pass on the first try. We will take one sample test and go over the answers in class, but otherwise, you must study for this test on your own time.

VOCABULARY: Pay careful attention to the vocabulary. To succeed as a math student and teacher, it is essential to know math vocabulary. As you read each section, write each math-related word on a 3x5 note card, along with its definition, symbol (if any) and examples. Not only will this make studying for tests and quizzes much easier, it will also be a useful resource in your future teaching career.

GRADING: The grading will be assigned on a 530 point scale:

A: 477-530, B: 424-476, C: 371-423, D: 318-370, F below 318

There will be no curves and no extra credit. I will assign +/- on an individual basis. WF's will not be assigned. Points are assigned as follows:

Quizzes (10) - 100 points
Midterm exams (2) - 100 points each
Homework and Group Projects - 40 points
Mastery Skills Test - 40 points
Final exam - 150 points

QUIZZES: There will be a 10 point quiz at the beginning of class each Thursday. This quiz will cover material through the previous class. Quiz questions will be similar (but not identical) to homework problems. The 10 best quiz scores will be kept, and the rest will be dropped. There will be no make up quizzes given.

MIDTERMS and FINAL: There will be two midterms during the semester worth 100 points each and a final exam worth 160 points. The questions on the exams will be similar to homework questions. If you cannot make it to a scheduled exam, you **MUST** contact the instructor **BEFORE** the exam if at all possible, or if an emergency, **WITHIN 24 HOURS** after the exam if you need to schedule a make up exam. Make up exams will only be given for extreme excuses. A doctor's note or some other physical excuse is required. Dates for exams (subject to change):

Midterm I - Thursday October 11
Midterm II - Tuesday November 20 (Note: This is Thanksgiving week)
Final Exam - Tuesday December 11, 1:00-3:00pm

HOMEWORK/PROJECTS: Homework will be assigned after each section. We will discuss the homework, but most of it will not be collected. Periodically I will assign problems for you to turn in for credit. There will be several group projects that will be assigned. These will also be turned in for credit.

CLASS STRUCTURE: **BEFORE** class, you need to read the section assigned, do the activities in that section, and do the assigned problems. Be prepared to discuss the activities and possibly put your answers to the homework questions up on the board. There will be a quiz at the beginning of each Thursday's class.

ADDITIONAL HELP: You are encouraged to work together in this class and form study groups. You may come see me in office hours, and if you need even more help, you can go to the Math Tutoring Center (www.math.jmu.edu/tutoring-center/) x83379 . You are welcome to e-mail questions to me, but if you are referring to a homework problem, please include the entire question, because I may not have access to a book when I answer your e-mail.

HONOR CODE You are to abide by the JMU honor code at all times. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Cheating will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. When turning in homework or groupwork, you may work together and discuss the problems, but you must write up the homework to turn in **by yourself**. Every answer requires an explanation, and no two people's explanations will be exactly the same. Copying someone else's homework and putting your name on it is a violation of the Honor Code. Do not do this!