

Instructor: Chuck Stevens
Office Hours: 11:30 Daily

Office: L-201V
Phone: 416-7803

email: cstevens@skagit.edu
Website: svcmath.site44.com

Course Description

This course covers fundamental topics of algebra, including: polynomials, exponential and logarithmic functions, and their graphs; system of equations; inequalities; and curve sketching. Prerequisite: Math 099 with a grade of C or higher, or appropriate math placement score.

Text: Precalculus, Mathematics for Calculus, 5th Ed. Stewart/Redlin/Watson, ISBN: 0-495-55750-1

Calculator: A graphing calculator will be useful throughout the course. I recommend the TI-84. Calculators may be rented through the math department for \$20 per quarter. See me if interested in renting a calculator.

Note: Any calculator with CAS is not allowed on exams. This includes the TI-89, TI-Nspires, HP-50, HP Prime, etc.

Course Content

Math 141 covers content from selected sections from chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 11. After completing the course you will be able to:

1. Define a function including domain and range.
 2. Graph quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions.
 3. Recognize and apply transformations of functions.
 4. Use distance and slope formulas.
 5. Find composite and inverse functions.
 6. Find the equation of a line; find the equation of a circle.
 7. Use synthetic division.
 8. Find real and complex zeros of a polynomial.
 9. Solve equations involving logarithmic and exponential functions.
 10. Solve systems of non-linear equations.
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Coursework

Attendance Attendance every day is expected. Seeing the material presented in class is extremely helpful as the presentation of material will often be different than the text in order to clarify and enhance the text. Having questions answered in class (as well as hearing other students' questions and answers) is also a benefit. If a class is missed, it is your responsibility to obtain notes, assignments, worksheets, etc., or any other information given in class.

Homework is the most important part of any math course and is the course component where you actually learn the material presented in class. Everything else is simply an assessment on what you've learned. Doing homework regularly, and even twice a day, will pay off come test time. Homework is *usually* not collected, however we will spend a few minutes at the beginning of each day going over any homework problems from the previous day.

Worksheets There will be several (seven or eight) take-home worksheets throughout the quarter worth 15 points each. These are due at the beginning of class on the due dates **and are not accepted late**. Only your five highest worksheet scores count toward your final grade. A missed worksheet will automatically be one that is dropped. Worksheets account for 20% of the overall grade.

Chapter Exams There are four 50-point end-of-chapter exams. Exams must be taken on the scheduled day (see calendar). Make-up Exams are NOT given except for exceptional circumstances. Please contact me a week prior to a test if an alternative testing time is needed. *Anyone found cheating on an exam will receive a 0 for that exam. Caught a second time will result in failing the course.* The chapter exams account for ~50% of the overall grade. Your lowest exam score may be replaced with half of your final exam score.

Final Exam There is a comprehensive final exam worth 100 points covering material from the entire course as well as material from Chapter 9 and Chapter 11. Refer to the daily calendar for the scheduled date of the Final Exam. The final accounts for ~30% of your overall grade. You must receive at least a 50% on the final to pass the course.

Grading Scale Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

	B+ 87%	C+ 77%	D+ 63%
A 93%	B 83%	C 70%	D 60%
A- 90%	B- 80%	C- 67%	E < 60%

Other Information

- Arrive to class on time. Arriving consistently late is an inconsiderate disruption to the entire class.
- Turn off AND put away all cell phones. You should be able to concentrate for 50 minutes without glancing at text messages.
- Please do not eat meals in class. Drinks are okay.
- Keep up on your homework DAILY. Math is exactly like music, sports, cooking, learning a foreign language, etc.; to be good you need to practice, practice, practice.
- Read the text. Actually, read the text a few times. And work the examples with paper and pencil. Most concepts you may have questions on from the homework probably have examples in the text to help explain the concept.
- Take good in-class notes and review those notes immediately after class as well as that evening. Fine-tune them when necessary.

Daily Schedule (Very Tentative)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9/18 Intro	9/19 1.2	9/20 1.3	9/21 1.4	9/22 1.5
9/25 1.5	9/26 1.6	9/27 1.6	9/28 1.7	9/29 1.8
10/2 1.8	10/3 Review	10/4 2.1	10/5 2.2	10/6
10/9 2.3	10/10 2.4	10/11 2.4	10/12 2.5	10/13 2.6
10/16 2.6	10/17 2.7	10/18 2.81	10/19 Review	10/20 Exam 2
10/23 4.1	10/24 4.1	10/25 4.2	10/26 NO CLASS	10/27 4.3
10/30 4.4	10/31 4.5	11/1 4.5	11/2 Review	11/3 Exam 3
11/6 3.1	11/7 3.2	11/8 3.3	11/9 3.5	11/10 Veteran's Day
11/13 3.6	11/14 3.6	11/15	11/16 Review	11/17 Exam 4
11/20 9.1	11/21 9.3	11/22 9.8	11/23 Thanksgiving Break	11/24
11/27 Lin. Data	11/28 Lin. Data	11/29 Review	11/30 Review	12/1 Review
12/4 Finals 7:30, 10:30	12/5 Finals 8:30, 11:30	12/6 Finals 9:30, 12:30	12/7	12/8