

Math 1314.WB – College Algebra

Odessa College – Spring 2013

Dr. Christopher Walker

Course Information:

- Course: College Algebra
- Start Date: January 22th, 2013
- End Date: May 15th, 2013

Professor Information:

- Office: ET 107
- Phone: 432-335-6637
- Email: cwalker@odessa.edu (This is the most efficient way to contact me)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Includes sets, complex numbers, quadratic and quadratic form equations, inequalities, functions, systems of equations and topics selected from logarithmic functions, matrices, determinants, binomial theorem, math induction and sequences and series. The student will learn to select appropriate mathematical techniques and technologies and use skills in information organizing, processing, planning and problem solving. The student should be able to probe for mathematical meanings and describe these meanings to others. Placement testing available. (SCANS 3, 8, 9, 11)

TEXTBOOK: College Algebra by Robert Blitzer. Fifth Ed. *This Text is Recommended.*
MyMathLab access is required for this course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After completing this course, the student should be able to demonstrate competency in:

- Functions and graphs
- Polynomials and rational functions
- Exponential and logarithmic functions
- Systems of equations and matrices
- Other topics in algebra

Technology: Online students must have a valid e-mail address to register for computer software. The e-mail address you use to register your software will be the e-mail address to which I send any information and announcements. Please check this account regularly. It is recommended that you use your Odessa College e-mail address. Most work is done through the internet, so you will need a computer with internet access. If you do not have access to the internet, you may use the computers in the OC Math Lab.

Homework: All homework for this course will be completed using the MyMathLab software. The homework for this class can be accessed through the Course Compass website at <http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com>. The Course ID for this class is **walker69967**. There will be an assignment for each section of the book covered. Computer access is available several

places on campus including the Math Lab (ET120) and the Learning Resource Center (Which is open 7 days a week).

Communication: Communication is vital in the success of an online student. Communication methods for this course include e-mail, announcements, and discussion boards. Students are required to participate in discussion boards. **Each student should submit 15 meaningful discussion threads in the discussion boards.** These can either be new discussions or replies to other discussions. You will receive credit for meaningful discussions posted by 11pm on December 9th. “Meaningful” implies that the post adds to the learning of the course material. Examples include posting a question about the material, answering another student’s question, and posting tips on how to be successful in the course. Idle chit-chat, polite remarks like “thanks”, and non-meaningful post will not count towards your grade. Any e-mails I receive will be answered within 2 business days.

Exams: There will be 4 exams for the class. The exam schedule will be as follows:

- Exam 1: Friday, February 15th
- Exam 2: Friday, March 8th
- Exam 3: Friday, April 5th
- Exam 4: Friday, May 3rd

These are the suggested completion dates for the exams in order to keep up with the pace of the class. Although the exams will be open until the end of the class, I will review any exam completed by the suggested date above for PARTIAL CREDIT. Any exam completed after the suggested date will not be eligible for partial credit.

Final Exam: The final exam is comprehensive and will be proctored. The final exam must be taken in the Math Lab in the OC Mathematics Department. You must present a photo ID before taking the final exam. The final exam needs to be completed by 8:30pm on May 14th. You will not be allowed to bring your cell phone into the exam area. **If you do NOT earn at least 50% on the Final Exam, you will receive an automatic F for the course.**

Course Grades: Grades will be given based on the percentage of total possible points earned during the class. Each part of the class is weighted as follows:

Homework/Quizzes: 30%	Discussion: 5%	Chapter Exams: 40%	Final Exam: 25%
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Please note that I will be checking your progress regularly. This includes time spent on each section, the homework you have completed, and exam status.

Tutoring: There are tutoring services available through the Math Lab and through the Student Service Center (SSC) in the Learning Resource Center.

Special Needs: Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Learning Resource Center (The Library): The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (print books, videos, e-books) and databases (journal and magazine articles). Research guides covering specific subject areas, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian" service provide additional help.

Student Email: Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

Technical Support: For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm.

Important School Policies: For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students' and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the Odessa College Student Handbook.

Student Success Coaches: The Odessa College Student Success Coaches will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help or success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert or a Starfish Alert. A Student Success Coach will contact you to work toward a solution.

Expectations for Engagement – Online Learning

To help make the web-based learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the online learning environment. Students and instructors are welcome to exceed these requirements.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Instructors

1. As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will
 - provided my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
 - respond to all messages within 24 hours if received Monday through Thursday and within 48 hours if received Friday through Sunday; and,
 - notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of emergencies during the time I'm unavailable.
2. As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will
 - provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
 - communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.
3. As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will
 - post grades for discussion postings within one week of the discussion thread closing.
 - provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Students

1. As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will
 - line up alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet services is unavailable;
 - recognize that the college provides free wi-fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,
 - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or service is unreliable.
2. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to
 - getting "kicked off" of the system during tests or quizzes;
 - having trouble submitting assignments; and
 - dealing with a traumatic personal event.
3. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will
 - seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
 - ask questions if I don't understand; and,
 - access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.