MATH 70 – BEGINNING ALGEBRA
SUMMER 2013

Instructor: Mrs. Yolande Petersen
Office Hours: By appointment
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PREREQUISITE: Math 20 (prealgebra) or the equivalent

HOMEWORK AND QUIZZES: Homework will be collected every day, and will include assigned problems from all sections covered since the previous homework. Each homework assignment is worth 10 points (10 problems are randomly selected for grading). Occasional, unannounced quizzes may be given, worth 10 pts. No late homework is allowed and no make-up quizzes will be given for any reason. However, the lowest 3 of your homework & quiz scores will be dropped, to cover absences and forgotten homeworks.

EXAMS: There will be 5 regular exams which are graded on a straight percentage but which may be scaled, depending on the difficulty of the exam. Exams will never be scaled downward. The scaled scores will be assigned the grades: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89.9%, C = 70 - 79.9%, D = 60 - 69.9%, F = 0 – 59.9%. If you miss an exam, it will be “excused” (replaced with your final exam grade, not given a make-up) If you do not miss any exams, your lowest exam will be replaced with the final exam score (unless your final is lower).

GRADING: The various parts of your grade will be weighted as follows:
Homework & quizzes (with lowest 3 dropped) 25%
Exams (with lowest 1 replaced with final exam) 50%
Final Exam 25%

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:
1. Succeed in Math 90.
2. Factor polynomials.
3. Demonstrate proficiency with basic graphing skills.
4. Demonstrate mastery of linear equations.
5. Solve quadratic equations.

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Classroom Guidelines

1. The learning of the whole class comes first.
Questions directed to the instructor so the whole class can hear are welcome. However, any talking while the instructor is talking is very distracting (even talking about math). Cell phones (including texting and browsing), are also distracting. Those who repeatedly engage in disruptive behavior will be given a written warning, then dismissed in accordance with MJC’s Student Code of Conduct (see mjc.edu). All electronic devices (except approved calculators) should be silent and stored away out of sight. Approved calculators include those that have no communication ability and no mass storage for photos or data. For example, cell phones, laptops, ipods, and ipads may not be used as calculators. If you do need to use electronic devices for any reason, please leave the classroom, and return when the device is stowed away.

2. Every class period is important.
You are responsible for all material covered and all announcements made in class, even if you are absent. "I didn’t know because I wasn’t there" is not a valid excuse for missing tests, homework assignments, or extra credit opportunities.

3. The syllabus is the final word on your grade and other administrative issues.
The syllabus provides flexibility for emergencies such as illness, car trouble, accidentally leaving homework at home, etc. by allowing excused homework/quizzes and one excused exam. However, do not expect exceptions to be made from the syllabus policies.

4. The student is expected to take the initiative in completing course requirements.
The instructor will not call you if you miss tests or are absent. However, if are absent for 5 or more class periods, you should contact the instructor to verify your status in the class. Missing 5 or more classes may possibly (but not necessarily) result in your being dropped. Documentation (jury duty, medical verification) must be provided if you need to be excused for more than the allotted excused homeworks/quizzes and exam. If you are not satisfied with your progress in the class, you must drop yourself – the instructor may or may not drop you.

5. Cheating will not be tolerated.
Outside assistance (written materials, tutors) is permitted for homework. However, use of any materials beyond what is explicitly permitted during exams constitutes cheating. This includes any books or notes beyond the allowed card(s), as well as additional informational resources from inside or outside the classroom. Any incidence of cheating will result in an automatic zero for that test or assignment, and that score cannot count as an "excused" score. Electronic devices beyond approved calculators, may not be used for any reason during tests. (Be sure you have a non-communicating calculator).

______________________________
Signed
_________________________
Name Printed
_________________________
Date

I understand and agree to accept the consequences of the points outlined above and in the syllabus. In particular, I understand that engaging in private conversation and use of electronic devices (including texting) is unacceptable classroom behavior.