

# College Algebra Syllabus, 2013-2014, 1st Period

Dr. Brigham

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**Prerequisites:** C or higher in Algebra II or C or higher in Algebra Concepts Series.

**Text:** *College Algebra*, Fourth edition (2007), by Robert Blitzer.

**Course Description:** We will cover chapters P to 7, including how to solve equations and inequalities, produce graphs of polynomial, rational, logarithmic and exponential functions, solve systems of equations and inequalities, work with matrices including finding determinants, and finally examine conic sections.

**Necessary Materials:** Bring your homework to be graded. Bring paper to write on and a pencil to write with. Bring your book. Scientific calculator required. Graphing calculator (TI-83 Plus) suggested.

**Grades:** The categories for grades are as follows: bell work, homework, tests, extra credit.

- Bell work will be every single day except test days. It will be two points: one for completion, and one for accuracy. Ten low scores will be dropped at the end of the semester, and bell work may not be made up. It accounts for 10% of the final grade.
- Homework is further split into two categories: bookwork and Anki.
  - Bookwork comes from the book. It will be four points: two for completion, and two for accuracy. Bookwork for a given concept will be due at the start of class two days after we cover the concept. Students who get at least a 90% on a test get reduced homework until the next test. It accounts for 35% of the final grade.
  - Students are expected to create and maintain a deck in the program Anki. Students will have to submit their Anki decks via e-mail every few weeks. It accounts for 10% of the final grade.
- Tests will be given every few weeks. Together, they account for 35% of the final grade. The final is cumulative and accounts for 10% of the final grade. Students must be

silent while any tests are being administered; any talking will resume in a full letter grade reduction on that test (e.g., A- to B-).

- Extra credit opportunities will arise throughout the semester, usually in the form of a challenging problem, project, or presentation (which may involve LaTeX).

**Grading Scale:** We will use the usual ten-point grading scale:

		A	[95, +∞)	A-	[90,95)
B+	[87,90)	B	[84,87)	B-	[80,84)
C+	[77,80)	C	[74,77)	C-	[70,74)
D+	[67,70)	D	[64,67)	D-	[60,64)
		F	[0,60)		

**Graded Work Format:** Any work which is to be graded (bell work, homework, tests) must be done in pencil, must be legible, all work must be shown, and the answers must be clearly indicated, preferably boxed.

**Late Work:** Bookwork for a given concept is due two days after we cover it. If it is one day late (so three days after we cover the concept), it will be for 50% credit. If it is two days late, it will be for 50% credit, and the student will be assigned a detention to come in early or stay late and complete the assignment.

**Cell Phone Policy:** As per the Smithton High School policy, cell phones must be turned off and put away. Any student violating this will be written up and have his or her cell phone taken away, and also lose a full letter grade off his or her next test (e.g., A- to B-).

**Arriving Late and Leaving Early:** Students are expected to be in their seats, starting on the bell work when the bell to begin class sounds. Otherwise, the student is considered late. Class ends when the bell to end class sounds, and as such students are expected to work up until that point.

**Classroom Behavior:** Students are expected to be attentive and participate in class during lecture. Students are expected to do math book work when it's time to do math book work. No sleeping, texting (not that you're supposed to have phones out anyway), doing work for other classes, anything which would take away from your peers learning, etc. Also, **be kind!** To your peers, your text, your calculators, etc.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any form of cheating, whether copying the work of others or allowing one's work to be copied, results in a 0 for the given assignment, office referral, and parent contact.