

**MAT 121 – Online College Algebra  
Section G81**

**Spring Semester, 2011**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Harry S. (Steve) Mills, EDBH 134K, 970-339-6238, E-mail: Use mail tool on MyAims course website. (Click on Classlist from the main Navigation bar and then click on "Mills, Harry.")  
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**Catalog Description:** Includes equations and inequalities, functions and their graphs, exponential and logarithmic functions, linear and non-linear systems, graphing of the conic sections, introduction to sequences and series, permutations and combinations, the binomial theorem, theory of equations and an introduction to matrices and determinants. 4 credit hours

**Prerequisites:** Completion of MAT 099 with a 'C' or better, ACT Math score greater than or equal to 23, or assessment score.

**Required Materials:**

- **Textbook:** College Algebra: Concepts through Functions, 2nd Edition, Sullivan and Sullivan. See course website Beginnings for details.
- **Scientific Calculator:** The TI 30X IIB or comparable product with a Previous Entry feature. When you can see what you entered, you'll make fewer mistakes, be able to fix any mistakes you make, and explore patterns. **GRAPHING CALCULATORS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TESTS!!!**

**Course Website:** To access the website, login to <http://www.aims.edu> and click on My Courses tab. Then click on College Algebra. As this is an online course, the course website will be the focal point of our interactions, even though you will likely spend most of your time on the CourseCompass website, doing homework.

**Pearson Learning CourseCompass:** Online delivery of instruction will be performed by CourseCompass with MyMathLab, a product of Pearson Learning. As a learning tool, MyMathLab offers video lectures, exercises, quizzes, and on-demand help.

**Grades:** Five Categories: Tests, Homework, Final Test, 5-minute Essays and Writing Projects.

- **Test Average** will count 50% of the final grade. (Replace the lowest of these with your Final Exam grade.) You will go to an Aims Testing Center (Greeley, Loveland or Fort Lupton) to take each test. Special arrangements can be made with far-distant students for the taking of proctored tests at approved testing sites (Jean Otte, [jean.otte@aims.edu](mailto:jean.otte@aims.edu), handles this process.).
- **Homework** will count 15% of the final grade. Homework is assigned through CourseCompass, and MyMathLab will deliver instruction,

tutorials, and generate as many examples as you ask. This is a small fraction of the points, but the bread and butter of the course. It's where you *learn* this stuff.

- **Final Test** will count 20% of the final grade.
- **Weekly 5-minute Essays** will count 5% of the final grade. Each week, I will open up a discussion group on the course website. This will be an easy part of your weekly routine that may even be fun and should help you connect with your classmates. At some point near the end of week  $x$  (before Monday of the following week), the student will submit the answer to three questions in Week  $x$  :
  1. What did I learn this week?
  2. What did I struggle with and still not quite understand?
  3. In general, how is the course going? What's working/not-working for you?
- **Writing Projects** will count 10% of the final grade. There are 4 topics. You may employ both hand-writing and type-writing in these projects, depending on the assignment, and whatever works best for you. For more details, see the Writing Projects handout.

**Grading Scale:**

90% - 100% A

80% - 89% B

70% - 79% C

60% - 69% D

**Method of Instruction:** The primary means of content delivery will be provided by CourseCompass, an automated course management system. CourseCompass will also evaluate your progress using its own testing and homework utilities. You'll like the fact that it gives a LOT of instant feedback.

This course is self-paced, in the sense that you can move as slowly or quickly through a lesson as you want. It is *not* self-paced, in the sense that you must take tests according to the schedule.

**General Education Competencies:** This course satisfies the following General Education competencies: Critical Thinking, Technology, and Mathematics. It also satisfies the Aims requirement for Writing. Refer to Aims Community College catalog for descriptions.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- A. Be familiar with set notations, subsets of the real numbers and properties of real numbers.
- B. Perform algebraic manipulations including working with exponents, radicals, polynomial operations, factoring and algebraic fractions.
- C. Solve the following types of equations: linear, quadratic, equations involving radicals, equations in quadratic form and equations involving absolute value.
- D. Work with formulas including formula evaluation and solving a formula for any of the variables.
- E. Read and analyze problems in the form of word problem applications and obtain solutions using equations.
- F. Solve first degree inequalities, higher degree inequalities and inequalities involving absolute value.
- G. Recognize and graph linear functions, rational functions, absolute value functions, and graph inequalities in two variables.

- H. Work with function notation and demonstrate knowledge of the meaning “function”.
- I. Demonstrate an understanding of function composition, one-to-one functions and inverse functions.
- J. Evaluate and graph exponential functions.
- K. Evaluate and graph logarithmic functions.
- L. Work problems and solve equations containing exponential and logarithmic functions.
- M. Use at least two of the following techniques to solve linear and non-linear systems of the equations: substitution, addition, Gaussian elimination, Cramer’s rule.
- N. Have some familiarity with matrices and operations involving matrices.
- O. Graph systems of inequalities.
- P. Graph conic sections including circles, parabolas, ellipses and hyperbolas.
- Q. Identify the conic section represented by a given second degree equation.
- R. Work with series notation and sequence formulas, and counting principles.
- S. Apply the Binomial Theorem.
- T. Demonstrate an understanding of proof by mathematical induction.
- U. Present topics in theory of equations.
- V. Perform synthetic division.
- W. Use the Remainder Theorem and the Factor Theorem to factor and evaluate polynomials.
- X. Solve polynomial equations using the Rational Root Theorem and/or approximation techniques.
- Y. Write and speak clearly and logically about topics related to algebra.
- Z. Demonstrate the ability to select and apply contemporary forms of technology to solve problems or compile information in the study of algebra.

**Assessment Statement:** Assessment is an important part of the educational process... The college needs to look at the acquisition and application of skills that are taught across the curriculum, rather than in any particular course. This means that a college-wide process of assessment of student work also takes place on a regular schedule. So the take-home test will be looked at by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, separate from the course.

The assessment tool *we* will use for MAT 121 is a take-home test worth 20 points applied toward your Test 3 score. I will assess it for your grade, and others will assess it for the college's grade. If there is any reason you prefer not to have your assignments submitted for this college-wide assessment process, please let me know in writing within two weeks of receiving this statement.

If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns about the college-wide assessment process, please ask.

**Tutoring Information:** Drop-in, individual, and guided study group tutoring is available to currently enrolled Aims students. For available subjects, hours, and additional questions, please call 339-6541 for Greeley, 667-4611 Ext. 3304 for Loveland, and 303-718-5905 for Fort Lupton services. Also, please visit our website at <http://www.aims.edu/student/learning-commons/tsi/index.php> for current information.

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Disability Access Services (DAS) office privately to discuss her/his specific needs. Please be aware that before most accommodations can be allowed in class they must be approved through the DAS office. Students should contact the DAS office at 970-339-6388 or [disabilities@aims.edu](mailto:disabilities@aims.edu) to set up an appointment to discuss the process of requesting reasonable accommodations. DAS is located in the College Center in the One-Stop Shop area on the 1st floor.

**Student Conduct:** *Let common sense and common courtesy prevail!*

If they do *not* prevail, the student will be held to the letter and spirit of the Aims Policy Manual #5-601 (See the Aims website for a full description.). You must abide by these policies. Ignorance is no excuse!

Violations of student conduct policy will be dealt with at my discretion. Sanctions for disruptive behavior include a grade of 'F', expulsion from the course, and expulsion from the college. The same sanctions apply to any violation of Aims student conduct policy.

**My Weekly Schedule:**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>7:00 – 8:00</b>		By Appt.	By Appt.	By Appt.	
<b>8:00 – 8:45</b>			Office		
<b>8:45 – 10:00</b>	MAT 121 G11 EDBH 133	Office	MAT 121 G11 EDBH 133	Office	MAT 121 G11 EDBH 133
<b>10:10 - 11:00</b>	Office 10:00 – 11:45	By Appt.	Office 10:10 – 11:30	By Appt.	Office 10:00 – 11:45
<b>11:10 - 12:00</b>			Lunch 11:30 – 12:00	Lunch	
<b>12:10 - 1:00</b>	MAT 201 G11 EDBH 143	MAT 201 G11 EDBH 143	MAT 201 G11 EDBH 143	MAT 201 G11 EDBH 143	MAT 201 G11 EDBH 143
<b>1:10 – 2:00</b>	Lunch	Lunch 1:00 – 1:30	Office	Office	Lunch
<b>2:10 – 3:00</b>		Office 1:30 – 3:00	By Appt.	By Appt.	

Appointments are available if you can't make my office hours. If I start getting regular appointments at unlisted hours, I reserve the right to modify this schedule. Hours marked "Office" are times I set aside for students, specifically.

Office hours are set up to get 'most everyone help before or after class meets, to help those who are commuting to class with their schedules. I'm also setting office hours on Tuesday and Thursday, for students who have that block of time open, otherwise.

Any time you drop by and I'm in my office, I'm usually ready to help you with questions, and I'm in and around the office most of the day.