Math 101 Core Competency in Mathematics–Spring 2011

Student Information Sheet

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The course helps the student develop the use of mathematics in the world in which we live. It covers mastery of elementary skills and facts, understanding of logically correct arguments, learning to think abstractly, and increasing problem solving capacity. Competency developed should be helpful in continued learning, in setting and achieving goals, in personal decision-making, and in evaluating concerns in the community, state, and nation.


TOPICS COVERED: Elementary probability, statistics, and statistical testing; inductive and deductive reasoning; logical fallacies and survey analysis; graphical and algebraic solutions to equations; spatial relationships; personal finance; optimization; average rates of change; strategies in problem solving.

PREREQUISITES: Intermediate algebra and geometry

MATH 101 HOMEPAGE: http://www.math.niu.edu Click on Course Information.

CALCULATORS: You will need a hand calculator which can do basic arithmetic, square roots, and other exponents (a y to the x key). Either a scientific or graphing calculator is acceptable. Standard calculators will be allowed on all exams (laptops, calculators that access the internet, and calculators in cell phones are NOT allowed on exams - calculators with memory may be subject to inspection and erasure of stored material). If you do not have a calculator the TI 30-series calculators are fine for this class - TI-34, TI-36, etc.

GRADING SCALE: The grading scale will be at least as generous as: A 85% (or 637 points); B 75% (or 562 points); C 60% (or 450 points); D 50% (or 375 points).

COURSE WITHDRAWAL: The last day to withdraw from this course is Friday, March 11, 2011.

MAKE-UP EXAMS will be given ONLY in the event of illness or serious emergency. All make-up exams will be resolved by the END of the semester. Make up exams will be scheduled for the last day of classes. There will be no make-ups on quizzes.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT: Academic honesty and mutual respect (student with student and instructor with student) are expected in this course. Mutual respect includes being on time for class and not leaving early, being prepared to give full attention to class work, not reading newspapers or other nonclass material in class, turning off phone ringers and not using cell phones or pagers during class time, and not looking at another student’s work during exams. Academic misconduct, as defined by the Student Judicial Code, will not be treated lightly.

EXTRA HELP: Math 101 students are welcome in the residence hall tutoring centers. You are always welcome to consult with your instructor or TA during office hours.

ADVICE: Perhaps the single most important factor governing your success in this course is your STUDY HABITS.
Think of learning mathematics like “working out” at the gym: study at least three times per week, and do not wait until the day before the exam to study. Work on the concepts until they make sense. Don’t just memorize facts, but master each homework problem by going beyond just getting a correct answer. Be on the lookout for mistakes in algebra and arithmetic. Allow yourself to keep an open mind and have a positive attitude. ALWAYS COME TO CLASS AND RECITATION! While you are in class and recitation, listen, think, and ask questions.