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MAT 002T.03: Prealgebra

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MAT 002
Prealgebra
Syllabus

Excellence is achieved by the mastery of fundamentals.

-- Vince Lombardi

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Text: *Prealgebra* by Margaret L. Lial and Diana L. Hestwood

Math 002 is a one-semester prealgebra course. In this course, we investigate the building blocks of the number system, including whole numbers, integers, solving equations and problem solving, fractions, decimals, ratio and proportion, percent, and geometry and measurement.

I want to emphasize to all of my students how important *your* role is in succeeding in this course. Attendance is not part of your final grade, BUT I cannot teach you if you are not in class ready to learn. Turn off your cell phone. Come prepared. Pay attention and *keep thinking!* No matter how you feel about studying math, or how math fits into your career plans, I can assure you that it is important to learn personal responsibility and show that you have a solid work ethic. That does not mean that I expect this class to be dull! What it does mean is that you have a lot to do with how the "feel" of the class develops. You ARE the class and you can make it lively and interesting or you can make it silent and boring. Personally, I prefer lively with lots of questions and student interaction ... but it's up to you. If you do the work you will find the classes make sense and the challenges are reasonable, not overwhelming. As an educator, I believe in the keywords respect and appreciation, and these traits work both ways. I need to respect your efforts and appreciate your contributions, and conversely, you must also do the same for me and each other. It makes for a much nicer class.



Calculators -- You will need to learn to work comfortably with a calculator for this class. You don't need a fancy calculator, but a standard one would be helpful. I recommend a simple Texas Instrument calculator like a TI-30 or a TI-34.

Grades - Homework is collected regularly and is taken directly from the homework problems. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is for you to be diligent in your study habits. You will not learn math by osmosis or wishful thinking; you need to put in the effort in order to be able to learn the material. Your work needs to be clear and legible so that it can be evaluated. I will not grade illegible papers.

Final grades will be based on the chapter tests, the homework, and the cumulative final. Chapter tests are worth 100 points each, homework is worth 10 points each, and the cumulative final is worth 150 points for a total of 520 points. The following grading scale will be used:

90-100%	A	465-520 points
80-89%	B	413-464 points
70-79%	C	361-412 points
60-69%	D	309-360 points
Below 60%	F	< 309 points

I also understand that a significant portion of the typical MAT 002 class struggles with math anxiety -- that is why you need to take MAT 002 in the first place. Take a deep breath! I am on your side and want to see you succeed. We do cover a lot of material in the class, but if you are able to discipline yourself to keep up with the assignments, the tests won't be so overwhelming. I HAVE TO give tests; that's the only way I can assess your progress. The purpose of the tests is not to trip you up, but to show what you have learned. Try to relax and do your best. If you have a diagnosed learning disability, other arrangements can be made through the Academic Support Center.

Makeup Tests and Late Problem Sets -- If you have special circumstances which prevent you from taking a test on time, please make every effort to notify me in advance. Only under the direst circumstances will a makeup test be given without prior approval. Problem sets will not be accepted later than the day the test is taken.

Test Return Policy -- I will attempt to have corrected tests returned no later than one week after the test date. There is no way I will be able to return corrected tests any sooner. If you have questions regarding corrected tests, please wait till after class to discuss them with me.

A Note on Cheating -- Academic honesty is expected at all times. No form of cheating will be tolerated. The penalty for cheating on a test is loss of all points for that test; a second occurrence guarantees being reported to the administration. The University of Montana has strong sanctions against plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Cheating is not worth the effort and is unfair to those who are honest. You are always welcome to seek help on take-home tests (if any) and on homework assignments, but make an effort to learn from the experience. The work you hand in to me should be your own (even with assistance). I don't care whether your parents or friends or spouses or tutors understand the material -- I care about you and what you have learned. You won't have any help on the final exam and it is cumulative. If you haven't learned the subject, it will be apparent when you take your final.

Course Outline

Aug 28 §1.1, 1.2	Aug 30 §1.3, 1.4	Sep 1 §1.5, 1.6
Sep 4 Labor Day -- No School	Sep 6 §1.7, 1.8	Sep 8 §2.1, 2.2 Collect HW
Sep 11 §2.3	Sep 13 §2.4	Sep 15 §2.5
Sep 18 Test 1 Collect HW	Sep 20 §3.1, 3.2	Sep 22 §3.3
Sep 25 §3.4	Sep 27 §4.1, 4.2	Sep 29 §4.3
Oct 2 §4.4	Oct 4 §4.5, 4.6	Oct 6 §4.7, 4.8 Collect HW
Oct 9 §5.1, 5.2, 5.3	Oct 11 §5.4, 5.5	Oct 13 §5.6
Oct 16 §5.7, 5.9	Oct 18 Test 2	Oct 20 §5.8, 5.10
Oct 23 §6.1, 6.2 Collect HW	Oct 25 §6.3	Oct 27 §6.4
Oct 30 §7.1	Nov 1 §7.2, 7.3	Nov 3 §7.4, 7.5
Nov 6 §8.1, 8.2, 8.3 Collect HW	Nov 8 §8.4, 8.5	Nov 10 Veterans' Day -- No School
Nov 13 §9.1, 9.2	Nov 15 §9.3, 9.4	Nov 17 §9.5
Nov 20 Test 3 Collect HW	Thanksgiving Vacation -- No School	
Nov 27 §10.1	Nov 29 §10.2	Dec 1 §10.3
Dec 4 §10.4	Dec 6 §10.5	Dec 8 Review Collect HW

The final exam for this course will be held on _____ in this classroom.
It will be closed book.

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Final Note

I want math to be a subject you enjoy and appreciate. Learning math empowers you! You raise your self-esteem with your accomplishments and become a more valuable member to the community with your problem-solving skills. Math is a subject that is rich and rewarding, but only if you understand the basics of vocabulary and grammar so that you can speak the language. The best way to come to appreciate how math works is to DO THE MATH. Discipline yourself so that you practice regularly. If you do, tests won't seem like such a threat -- because they shouldn't be! They are a necessary assessment tool that shows both you and me how well you are progressing. Education is not a contest. It is a goal. Show both of us that you want to learn.

I am looking forward to a lively and exciting semester with all of you. Please give this course your best effort so that it can be just as interesting for you!

Academic calendar available at <http://www2.umt.edu/registrar/currentcalendar.htm>

Finals schedule available at http://www2.umt.edu/registrar/finals_schedules.htm

Some useful websites: <http://www.algebrahelp.com/> (lessons)

<http://www.purplemath.com/>

<http://algebasics.com/>