Fall 9-1-2000

MATH 121.09: Precalculus

Carol A. Ulsafer
The University of Montana

MATH 121 – 4 & 9: Precalculus **Autumn 2000**

Section 4 meets MTWF at 10:10 in MA 312; Section 9 meets MTWF at 1:10 in J 306. While the sections will not be identical, you can attend either occasionally if you have a temporary conflict.

Course Instructor: Carol Ulsafer (also the course coordinator)
Office: 269 Corbin Hall
Office Hours: M 2 – 4, T 2 – 3, W 2- 4, and by appointment.
Office Phone: 243 - 6712
e-mail: culsafer@selway.umt.edu

Prerequisite: A decent grasp on the material in Math 100: Intermediate Algebra. For most students this means that it hasn't been too long since you took it and you got at least a solid C or you just finished three years of college prep high school math and remember most of it.

Text: *Precalculus: Mathematics for Calculus,3rd edition,* Stewart, Redlin, & Watson. The heart of the course is Chapters 2 – 7. Chapter 1 should be a review for most of you; we will just do parts of it. If you find that you are not familiar with the bulk of the material in Chapter 1, you should probably consider dropping back to Math 100 or at least spending considerable time in reviewing that material.

Description of Course: This course is intended to prepare you for calculus. To that end, we will focus on the standard functions whose domains and ranges are subsets of the real numbers. These are primarily the polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions.

Calculators: A graphing calculator is required in this course. Class demos are given with the Texas Instrument calculators, but no particular brand is required. One good calculator is the TI-82, but if you are planning to go on in math or science, you might want to consider a TI-86. Calculators with symbolic manipulation capability (e.g. TI-89, TI-92, HP-48) give too much advantage and are not permitted during tests.

A Word to the Wise: Assuming you have the necessary background, the material in this course should be quite "doable," but it is a truism that the only way to learn mathematics is to **do** mathematics. One does this by studying the text and doing problems, not just by looking and listening in class. Please look over the authors' introductory sections to get a feel for the text. And as we come to them, please make use of the Chapter Reviews and Chapter Tests. You should budget about 8 – 10 hours a week outside of class for study and problem solving. It is best to do this in 1 – 2 hour sessions each day, and not in a marathon all one day. Attendance will be taken and will be used as a "fudge factor" in boosting, but not lowering, grades. I do not normally give make-up exams or accept late work of any sort. If you feel your circumstances warrant an exception, see me in advance of the due date to discuss a possible resolution.

Grading:		
	4 tests @ 100 points each	400
	homework	100
	(the lowest of the above 5 items will be dropped)	
	comprehensive final	200

Tentative Test Days:
#1: Friday, September 22
#2: Friday, October 13
#3: Friday, November 3
#4: Friday, December 1
Final: Wednesday, December 20, 6 – 8 pm (common to all sections)

Other Important Dates:

- Monday, September 25: Last Day to Add/Drop by Cyber Bear. After this date, a drop results in W on transcript and no refund is given.
- Monday, October 10: Last Day to Drop by Paper Form. After this date, a drop results in WP or WF on transcript and a $10 fee. Also last day to change grading option (P/NP vs. letter grade).
- Tuesday, November 7: Election Day Holiday
- Friday, November 10: Veterans' Day Holiday
- Wednesday, November22 – Friday, November 24: Thanksgiving Vacation
- Friday, December 15: After this date, course may not be dropped, even by petition. Nor can the grading option (letter grade vs. P/NP) be changed.