

Fall 2015: MATH 245 College Algebra
Section 1500: TTh 11:10AM – 12:35PM // GC-330
(Course Pre-requisite: Math 125)

Mr. Jason Wang

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Office: B-5 #103 // **Office Hours:** MW6:25PM-7:15PM (please email to confirm)

Required Textbooks/Materials

College Algebra (8th Edition)

Author: Ron Larson

Publisher: Brooks Cole (January 1, 2010)

ISBN-10: 143904869X

ISBN-13: 978-1439048696

Course Overview

This course covers algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic functions, theory of equations, linear systems, functions of real numbers, probability, and mathematical induction.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. Choose an appropriate basic model (e.g. linear, quadratic, exponential, power, etc.) for an applied situation, find the equation(s) for that model, and solve equations to answer questions about the original situation.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Student learning is at the core of the WLAC mission. WLAC faculty developed a plan to assess the student-learning outcomes that represent the knowledge, skills and attitudes expected of (someone in our major/a college student). In this class one or more student learning outcomes will be assessed. Some of our class assignments may be used to evaluate overall student learning and to improve teaching and learning in this class, this department, and throughout the College.

Performance Evaluation Policy

Your performance in the class will be measured by the following criteria:

Homework	16%
Midterm Exams (4 Exams x 13%)	52%
Final Exam	32%
Total	100%

MyHaiku: Class syllabus, lecture notes, and grades will be recorded in the MyHaiku website. Please join the class website at: <http://bit.ly/1PzOUty> (case sensitive) and then enter the code: 4V3VC

Homework: In Math 245, homework will be assigned throughout the semester and will be collected and graded. Late homework *might be* allowed, but in such a case, an automatic 15% will be deducted from your homework grade. For example, if you received a score of 90% on a homework assignment but turned it in late, you will receive a 75% grade on that assignment

Midterm Exams There will be **4 midterm exams** over the semester. The **dates of the exams** are already tentatively set and marked in the course calendar on the last page of this syllabus, and **no advanced or make-up exam** will be granted unless you have to take an exam earlier/later due to **compelling** and **unforeseeable** causes (e.g., accident, severe illness, family death, other emergencies that prevent you from coming to school), with **valid documentation**.

Final Exam The final exam will be held on **Thursday, December 17 at 11:30AM – 1:30PM**. It will be **comprehensive**, i.e., it covers all major topics studied over the entire semester. It is based on, but more in-depth than, the in-class examples, exercises, homework assignments, and the midterm exams. The aforementioned policy on missed midterm exams applies to the final exam.

Grading scale:

90 - 100%: A 80 – 89.9%: B 70 – 79.9%: C 60-69.9%: D 0-59.9%: F

Please know that it is my personal policy to stick as firmly as possible to the above grading scale. This is to avoid any difficult situations where students wonder at the end of the semester if it is possible to ask for additional 0.5 points or even 50 points. Therefore, it is strongly required that students take all homework assignments, tests, and activities as seriously as possible, in order to obtain the highest possible grade in the class.

Academic/Personal Difficulties If, at any point during the semester, you have any academic or personal difficulties, please let me know ASAP. As your professor, it is my desire to help you through any difficulties you may have in your life and will do as much as I can within reason to do so. Please note that if you notify me of difficulties either **after** or **close to the end** of the semester, there is very little that I can do by then.

Other Information and Policies

Lecture Notes: In order to better facilitate learning, Student Version of the class lecture notes will be passed out in class and also uploaded to the class website at MyHaiku. The professor will lecture using the provided lecture notes, so students need to be aware of the lecture speed.

Email Address Check your *Contact Information* in the WLAC system to make sure your *preferred* email address is one that you actually access on a daily basis. The instructor will occasionally send course-related messages to the class, and the university also sends official notifications to your preferred email address.

Calculator Use Calculators are useful tools for learning, but in this class, **only scientific calculators will be allowed in class, i.e. calculators that do not look expensive.** Please also try to only use scientific calculators during homework assignments, in order to better prepare you for the exams.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class, as attendance to all class sessions is required, and attendance will be taken daily. Please plan your schedule so that you arrive on time. Significant number of absences will affect your grade, and students may be dropped due to excessive absences, such as missing more than 3 lectures

Drop: Students should not assume that they will be officially dropped from the class role by the instructor, as it is the student's own responsibility to drop the class. Please check the WLAC calendar to find out the last day to drop with a "W."

Office Hours You are encouraged to visit the instructor during office hours. However, an office hour might be cancelled due to the instructor's illness, necessary appointments or duties, or academic travel. You should not rely on a particular office hour for very important or urgent matters such as getting a necessary signature on the exact day of a deadline. Contact the instructor well in advance for such matters, whenever possible.

Academic Honesty The academic environment is predicated on truth and integrity. Acts of dishonesty constitute a serious offense to the WLAC Community. Acts of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

Cheating: Cheating of any kind is dishonest. This includes copying other's exams, stealing exams, buying or otherwise procuring new or used exams, having someone else take an exam for which you take credit, and any other way you might receive credit for work that is not your own.

Academic Freedom: Students and faculty's freedom of speech is constitutionally protected, so they are free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion—and allow the same freedom for others. See Student Handbook(s) for further discussion.

Disability/Accommodation Policy: WLAC, in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of disability. If you have a disability and might need accommodations in this class, please contact *Disabled Student Program & Services* (DSPS) in Building HLRC 121 as soon as possible to ensure that you receive the accommodations in a timely manner. You may also discuss your need for accommodations with me

Course Calendar (Tentative)

- Week 1 (9/1-3): Class Intro & Section P1; Section P4, P6
- Week 2 (9/8-10): Sections P4, P6 (cont); Sections 1.1-1.2
- Week 3 (9/15-17): Sections 1.3-1.4; Sections 1.5-1.7
- Week 4 (9/22-24): Midterm Review & Section 2.1; **Midterm #1 (Chapters P & 1)**
- Week 5 (9/29-10/1): Sections 2.1-2.2; Sections 2.3-2.5
- Week 6 (10/6-8): Sections 2.5 (cont)-2.6; Sections 2.6 (cont)-2.7
- Week 7 (10/13-15): Midterm Review & Section 5.1; **Midterm #2 (Chapter 2)**
- Week 8 (10/20-22): Sections 5.1 (cont)-5.2; Sections 5.3-5.5
- Week 9 (10/27-29): Sections 6.1-6.2; Sections 6.3-6.4
- Week 10 (11/3-5): Sections 6.5-6.6; Midterm Review & 7.1
- Week 11 (11/10-12): **Midterm #3 (Chapters 5 & 6)**; Sections 7.1(cont)-7.2
- Week 12 (11/17-19): Sections 7.2(cont) – 7.4; Sections 7.4(cont) – 7.5
- Week 13 (11/24-26): Sections 8.1; Holiday (Thanksgiving)
- Week 14 (12/1-3): Midterm Review & Section 8.4; **Midterm #4 (Chapters 7 & Section 8.1)**
- Week 15 (12/8-10): Section 8.7; **Final Review**