

Math 102A: Algebra

Winter 2005

Instructor: Kirk Blazek
Classroom: Raitt 116, M-F 11:30-12:20
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Office hours: Tuesday 9am-10am, Thursday 2:30pm-3:30pm. My office hours will be in the Instructional Center

Instructional Center:

The Instructional Center is a great place to study and work on your homework. If you and a bunch of fellow students can find a time when you can all regularly work there together, you will all benefit. It is located at the corner of 40th and Brooklyn. It's open 8-8 Monday through Thursday and 8-5 on Friday.

Textbook:

Discovery Method Algebra, by Halsey, Partee, Mancer, and Warfield.
Available at the University Bookstore.

Class Format:

Discussion and discovery. Participation is essential. Mistakes in class are ABSOLUTELY OK.

Structure:

- There will be homework every night-about an hour and a half's worth.
- There will be a weekly 20 minute quiz either on Fridays (except when there is a midterm).
- There will be midterms instead of quizzes on January 28th and February 25th.
- There will be a 2-hour final exam in the regular classroom at the time listed in the time schedule..

Grading:

Your grade in this class will be broken down this way:

Quizzes	30% (bottom 2 quiz grades dropped)
Midterms	30%
Final Exam	30%
Homework, Attendance, and Participation	10%

At a VERY rough estimate, averages of the first three categories correlate with course grades as follows: an average of 95 gives a 3.7, 80 gives a 2.7, 65 gives a 1.7, and 50 gives a 0.7. The grade for homework, attendance, and participation can raise the course grade by up to 0.3 points.

Homework details:

Homework should be turned in folded vertically, with your name, your section number (102A), the date, the assignment number, and the assignment on the outside.

Homework must be neat. Space the problems far enough apart so that the grader can find them easily. Grader time is a very valuable commodity-we cannot afford to waste it.

Homework turned in one class period late will be corrected and given full credit.

Homework turned in more than one class period late will be marked "L" and not corrected, but the "L" will be recorded, which gives you some credit.

Grades on homework are intended mainly for your information. They are

- + you seem to understand this very well
- √ you seem to understand this reasonably well
- you seem not to understand this

Homework does count in your course grade, but almost entirely on the basis of how many you tried, not how you scored on them.