

MA 153 Spring 2005

Learning Community 2

Instructor: John LaMaster
home page: <http://www.ipfw.edu/math/lamaster>

Class Meetings: MWF: 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Neff 147

Office: Kettler 264

Office Hours: Mon and Wed: 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wed: 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Also by appointment or chance

Reachable: 481-5430 (office/voice mail)
481-6821 (Math Dept)
481-6880 (FAX)
email: lamaster@ipfw.edu

Supplemental Instruction* (What a Deal!)

Wed and Fri: 12 noon - 1:00 p.m (Dave)
Tues. and Thurs.: 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m (Susie)

*Locations to be announced. Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an academic assistance program that targets traditionally difficult academic courses—those that have a high rate of D or F grades and withdrawals—and involves regularly scheduled, out-of-class, peer-facilitated study sessions. SI sessions are open to all students in the course and are attended on a voluntary basis. SI students earn higher course grades and withdraw less often than non-participants.

Prerequisites: MA 113 with C or higher or placement by departmental exam. This course is primarily intended for students who have completed two years of high school algebra.

Objectives: This course serves both as a preparation to the calculus sequences and as a terminal course for students who need only this level of mathematics. With ENG W131 *Principles of Composition*, this learning community includes activities to help students:

1. find and evaluate information for academic and personal use
2. use technology effectively to support learning
3. use writing assignments to encourage reflection on one's learning and reinforce learning
4. connect concepts and applications to family, work, and social lives
5. connect to IPFW resources for academic, social, and personal enrichment

Content: This course presents the concepts of precalculus from four points of view: geometric (graphs), numeric (tables), symbolic (formulas), and written (verbal descriptions). The emphasis is on the mathematical modeling of real-life problems using linear, exponential, quadratic, power, polynomial and rational functions. Students develop their reading, writing, and questioning skills in an interactive classroom setting. Roughly Chapters 1-5 and 9 of the text.

Required: *Functions Modeling Change, 2nd Edition* by Connally, Hughes-Hallett, Gleason, et al.

An access code for *e-Grade* learning software for *Functions Modeling Change, 2nd Edition* (available behind the counter in the Kettler bookstore or online at <http://he-cda.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-107237.html#precalculus> for \$14.95)

You will be required to use a graphing calculator for activities and assignments in and out of class. The [Assistance with Graphing Calculators Web Page](http://www.ipfw.edu/math/graphcalc.html) (<http://www.ipfw.edu/math/graphcalc.html>) can help you obtain and use a grapher. I will be using the TI-84 Plus and TI-83 Plus.

Note: You can rent a TI-83 Plus for \$10 at Walb Student Union 225 (481-6586).

Optional: *Student's Study Guide* by Cannon
Graphing Calculator Guide for the TI-83/82 by Carl Swenson

Important Dates

Martin Luther King Holiday: **Monday, January 17**

Spring Break: **Monday, March 7 - Friday, March 11**

Last Day to Withdraw: **Friday, March 18**

Final Exam: **Monday, May 2, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** (If you have a conflict, see me)

Attendance and Class Participation: Since much of the learning in this course occurs interactively during class time, attendance is vital and is part of the course grade (roughly 6.25%). You cannot earn your attendance credit if you are not here for the **entire** class meeting, which means that you are in your seat at 1:30 and staying until class ends at 2:20. You are expected to not only attend all class meetings, but participate in your group and contribute to the learning environment of the class as a whole. If you are blatantly not participating in class (such as doing homework for other classes, reading the newspaper), you may be physically here, but this is *worse* than being absent, since it lowers the class morale. To earn complete points for attendance on a particular day, you may be required to do more than just “show up.” For example, you may be asked to answer some questions correctly about the assigned reading due that day or submit work from class activities to earn your participation credit. A missed class may be made up by attending two 1 hour SI sessions or two hours of (free) university tutoring.

Your group sinks or swims together. It is important that all members of the group participate and learn the material. If all members of your team score 90% or above on a chapter test, each will receive 5 bonus points.

FYE Co-Curricular Activities: Each student will complete their choice of co-curricular activities as outlined in the provided [handout](#). All FYE co-curricular activities require a one page, typed description/ critique of the event.

Internet Access: Part of your semester fees went toward giving you Internet access. Make sure your account is activated by next week. Call the Help Desk at 481-6030 if you have questions or need assistance.

Assignments: Homework problems from the text will be regularly assigned, but not collected each day.. These problems are to be prepared for discussion during the next class period. Completion of the assignments is essential for understanding the material. Assignments will be posted on the course Web Site found at

<http://www.ipfw.edu/math/lamaster/courses.htm> so if you miss a class, you can come prepared the next day.

However, to be safe, get the phone number of someone else in the class and just call them to see what you missed!

Some written assignments will occasionally be collected for grading. In addition, assignments must be completed over the Internet off the course Web Site using *eGrade*. A tutorial is available at this Web site as well. See the General Course Information for more details about using this.

Quizzes: Occasional section quizzes worth 25 pts. each will be given, usually announced a day in advance. There will be no make-up quizzes; however, you can drop all but the top four quizzes.

Exams: There will be three chapter exams, worth 100 points each. The final exam is comprehensive. Mark your calendars now: **Monday, May 2, 2005 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** Unexcused absences from exams shall result in a score of zero. If an absence is unavoidable and deemed legitimate, you must contact me within 24 hours of the exam (if possible, in advance) in order to schedule a make-up. Each student is allowed one make-up exam.

Grading:

Attendance & Class Participation	50 pts.
FYE Co-Curricular Activities (at least 5 total)	25 pts.
Internet (<i>e-Grade</i>) Assignments	100 pts.
Writing Assignments	25 pts.
Quizzes (your highest 4 scores at 25 pts. each)	100 pts.
Test 1	100 pts.
Test 2	100 pts.
Test 3	100 pts.
Comprehensive Final Exam	200 pts.
Total Points Possible	800 pts.

720 pts. or more	A
640 to 719 pts.	B
560 to 639 pts.	C
480 to 559 pts.	D
Below 480 pts.	F

If you have or acquire a disability and want to find out about what special services and accommodations are available, you may contact [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) in Walb 118, telephone 481-6557 (voice/TDD)