

# MA 153 Spring 2008

**Instructor:** John LaMaster

**Web Sites:** John's Home Page: <http://www.ipfw.edu/math/lamaster>  
Course Home Page: <http://users.ipfw.edu/lamaster/ma153/s08ma153.htm>

**Class Meetings:** MWF: 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. Kettler 138

**Office:** Kettler 264

**Office Hours:** Before class: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday: 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
Also by appointment or chance.

<b>Supplemental Instruction:</b> MWF: 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. KT 128
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**Reachable:** 481-5430 (office/voice mail)  
481-6821 (Math Dept)  
481- 0155 (FAX)  
email: [lamaster@ipfw.edu](mailto:lamaster@ipfw.edu)

**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. Students develop their reading, writing, and questioning skills in an interactive classroom setting.

**Content:** Roughly Chapters 1-5 and 9 of the text. This course presents the concepts of precalculus from four points of view: geometric (graphs), numeric (tables), symbolic (formulas), and written (verbal descriptions). The emphasis of the course is on the mathematical modeling of real-life problems using linear, exponential, quadratic, power, polynomial and rational functions.

**Required:** The text *Functions Modeling Change, 3rd Edition* by Connally, Hughes-Hallett, Gleason, et al.

An access code for *MapleTA* learning software for purchase in the Kettler bookstore.  
(It is available behind the counter)

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/resources/calculators.shtml) ([www.ipfw.edu/math/resources/calculators.shtml](http://www.ipfw.edu/math/resources/calculators.shtml)) can help you obtain and use a grapher. The **TI-83 Plus** or **TI-84 Plus** (or Silver Editions of these) are the *tools of choice*, since these are much more user-friendly than other models.

**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

<p><i>Martin Luther King Holiday:</i> <b>Monday, January 21</b> <i>Test 1 (Tentatively most of Chapters 1 and 2):</i> <b>Friday, February 8</b> <i>Test 2 (Tentatively most of Chapter 3 and Section 4.1):</i> <b>Friday, February 29</b> <i>Spring Break:</i> <b>Monday, March 10 - Friday, March 14</b> <i>Last Day to Withdraw Without a Letter Grade:</i> <b>Friday, March 21</b> <i>Test 3 (Tentatively most of Chapters 4 and 5):</i> <b>Friday, April 4</b> <i>Test 4 (Tentatively Section 8.1 and most of Chapter 9):</i> <b>Friday, April 25</b> <i>Comprehensive Final Exam:</i> <b>Monday, May 5, 2008 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</b></p>
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**Attendance/ Participation:** Since much of the learning in this course occurs interactively during class time, attendance is vital and is part of the course grade (5%). 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 9:00 and staying until class ends at 9:50. 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 will be required to do more than just “show up.” For example, you may be asked to submit work from class activities to earn your participation credit. If you miss a class, use the Web Site to check what you missed so you come prepared to class.

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.

**Reading Questions:** To prepare for class activities, you are expected to complete the assigned readings and answer questions about the assignment outside of class. Sometimes the answers will be part of the class discussion, so completed work must be turned in **at the beginning of class for credit**. No late work will be accepted, even if you are absent. You can, however, submit these in advance if you know you will miss class.

**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 260-481-6030 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 Home Page at <http://users.ipfw.edu/lamaster/ma153/s08ma153.htm> so if you miss a class 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! **Assignments that will be graded include:**

- **Internet assignments** completed online using *MapleTA*. A tutorial is available at this Web site as well. (See the General Course Information for more details.)
- **Writing assignments** (typed) that will be given throughout the course over a directed question or topic.
- **Reading questions** as discussed above.

**Quizzes:** Occasional section quizzes worth 25 pts. each will be given, usually announced a day in advance. You can drop all but the top four quizzes. For this reason, there will be no make-up quizzes **for any reason**. Don't ask. The answer is no.

**Exams:** There will be four chapter exams, worth 100 points each. The final exam is comprehensive. Mark your calendars now: **Monday, May 5, 2008, 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.

**Grading:**

Attendance/Participation.....	50 pts.
Reading Questions.....	25 pts.
Writing Assignments.....	75 pts.
Internet ( <i>e-HW</i> ) Assignments.....	100 pts.
Quizzes (your highest 4 scores at 25 pts. each)....	100 pts.
Test 1.....	100 pts.
Test 2.....	100 pts.
Test 3.....	100 pts.
Test 4.....	100 pts.
<u>Comprehensive Final Exam.....</u>	<u>250 pts.</u>
<b>Total Points Possible.....</b>	<b>1000 pts.</b>

90% -100% (900 pts. or more)	A
80% - 89% (800 to 899 pts.)	B
70% -79% (700 to 799 pts.)	C
60% - 69% (600 to 699 pts.)	D
<60% (Below 600 pts.)	F

Attendance & Participation
Reading Questions
Writing Assignments
eHW
Quizzes
Test 1
Test 2
Test 3
Test 4
Final Exam

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb, Room 113, telephone number 481-6658), as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has provided you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, please visit the Web Site for SSD at <http://www.ipfw.edu/ssd/>