

# Math 38 - Prealgebra

## Spring 2010

**Instructor:** Guillermo Alvarez

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**CRN:** 91117

**Room:** R114

**Class time:** T TH 3-5:05

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**Office:** M-107

**Office Hours:** T TH 5:10-7

**Course Prerequisite:** Math 32 with a grade of “C” or better, or equivalent.

**Course Description:** The concepts in arithmetic, measurement, geometry, and introductory algebra needed to succeed in Mathematics 95. The calculator will be used as a tool for problem solving. Upon successful completion of the course you will be able to:

1. Write explanation of math terms
2. Solve related problems on rational numbers
3. Translate English statements into algebraic expressions
4. Solve simple first degree equations
5. Use prime factored form to find LCM and GCM
6. Plot ordered pairs in the Rectangular Coordinate System
7. Find area and value of simple plane figures and volumes of solids
8. Perform order of operations

**Office Hours:** I HIGHLY encourage you to come to my office hours with questions. Although my office hours are listed above if you stop by before then I might also be available for help. I have an **open-door policy**, so if I'm in my office, I'll answer your questions, anytime!

**Required Textbook:** Prealgebra by Tom Carson, 3rd edition. ISBN: 0555-00508-9. Math Study Skills, Alan Bass, Publisher: Pearson. ISBN: 0-321-51307-x.

**Calculator:** No calculators allowed on the exams or on the departmental final.

**Class participation and attendance:** By signing up for this class, you are entering an agreement with me and everybody else here that you will be here on time every day. Attendance for this class is **MANDATORY**. You are allowed to miss 2 days in the semester without penalty. If you miss 3 days you will be dropped from the class. If you are interested in a class where your instructor doesn't care whether you come or not then sign up for a different class.

**Tardiness and leaving class early:** Tardies count as half of an absence. It is **your responsibility** to notify me after class that you were tardy to remove your absence. Leaving class early unannounced is **extremely disrespectful**. Leaving class early without letting me know ahead of time also counts as an absence.

**Homework:** The homework is the single most important thing you must do to succeed in this course. You cannot do well on the exams if you do not do well on the homework. You will have the option to complete the homework using the textbook or using the MyMathlab online homework system. All paper homework will have to be turned in with a cover sheet for full credit. The course ID for MyMathlab is **alvarez82384**

**Exams:** There will be roughly 6 exams throughout the semester as well as a final exam on the last day of the semester. *It is the departmental policy that you must achieve a score of 60% or higher on the final exam in order to be eligible to receive a grade of C or better for the course. This is very important!!!*

**Tutoring:** You are welcome and encouraged to form study groups with other students in your class. If you are having trouble with the material you can come to **my office hours**, the **City College Tutorial Center** (R-212), or the **Math Center** (T-208). The Tutorial Center and the Math Center both offer walk-in tutoring.

**Notebook:** Organizational skills are very important for success in College. You will learn how to create a notebook that you want to keep as opposed to simply throwing away at the end of the semester. You will need a LARGE 3 ring binder with plain white paper and some graphing paper. It should have 5 sections: notes, homework, handouts, exams and practice exams. I would also highly recommend several colored pens and a highlighter.

**Grading:**

Type of assignment	%	Grading Scale
Homework	17.5	A 90-100%
Midterms (4)	52.5	B 80-89.99%
Final Exam	30	C 65-79.99%
<b>Total</b>	100	D 50-64.99%
		F below 50%

**Extra Credit:** I am sorry but if you are used to extra credit you will be disappointed because you won't find it in this class. Do your job, which includes coming to every class, doing your homework, studying, asking questions and practicing until you master the material and you will find no need for "extra credit". That being said, if you have missed less than 3 class periods and have **turned in ALL homework** with a satisfactory grade you will be allowed to drop your **lowest Exam score**.

**Office of Disability Support Programs and Services:** Students with verified disabilities who may need academic accommodations should contact the instructor as soon as possible. In order to coordinate with the Disabled Student Programs and Services office to identify appropriate accommodations, go to <http://www.sdcity.edu/studentresources/dsps/site/defaulttxt.asp>

**Illness and injury:** There is always a chance that something unfortunate might happen during the semester. Whether just the common cold getting in the way of your study time or something else, you will be required to keep up with the class under all circumstances. Although there are no make-up exams, under EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES you might be allowed to make up an exam no later than one day after the actual test date. A late exam score will include an automatic reduction of 10% of the total possible test points regardless of the reason for missing the original exam date.

**Cheating:** The use of unauthorized materials, communication with fellow students during an examination, attempting to benefit from the work of another student, and similar behaviors that defeat the intent of an examination is unacceptable. Any form of cheating may result in an "F" and a referral to the Dean for further action.

# 😊 Good manners are very important! 😊

- **TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE!** Not on vibrate...**OFF!**

## • **NO TEXT MESSAGING!!!** You will be dismissed

from class if you are found text messaging (if you are waiting for an emergency message let me know before class).

- **BE RESPECTFUL TO OTHERS.** Everyone has the right to ask questions and asking questions is encouraged. Do not talk while I am lecturing or while other students are asking questions.
- Do not go outside in the middle of class to answer a phone call.
- **DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES TEXT MESSAGE IN CLASS. YOU WILL GET DISMISSED IMMEDIATELY!!!**
- Rudeness will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- Any dismissal from class because of inappropriate behavior will be counted as an absence.

### **Important Information**

- It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes in which he/she is no longer participating.
- It is the instructor's discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline (02/05/2010) due to excessive absences.
- Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, as stated in the class schedule, will receive an evaluative letter grade in this class.

## Tentative Schedule for the semester

Week of	Topic	Chapters
Jan 26	Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying and Dividing	1
Feb 2	Solving Equations, Exponents, Square Roots, Order of Operations	2
Feb 9	<b>Exam 1</b> , Expressions and Polynomials	2
Feb 16	Expressions and Polynomials	3
Feb 23	Expressions and Polynomials, <b>Exam 2</b>	3,5
Mar 2	Fractions	5
Mar 9	Fractions	5
Mar 16	<b>Exam 3</b> , Solving Equations, Translating word sentences to equations	5,4
Mar 23	Problem Solving, Decimals	4,6
Mar 30	SPRING BREAK! NO CLASSES!!!	none
Apr 6	Decimals, Applications in Geometry	6
Apr 13	<b>Exam 4</b> , Ratios, Proportions	6,7
Apr 20	Ratios, Proportions, <b>Exam 5</b>	7
Apr 27	Percents	8
May 4	Percents, Graphing	8,9
May 11	<b>Exam 6</b> , Review for Final	9
<b>Final Exam on December 17th</b>	Review for Final	ALL

### Important Dates:

- **Feb 05:** Last day to drop without a “W”
- **Feb 05:** Last day to add a class
- **Apr 09:** Last day to withdraw with a “W”