

Mathematics 108
PRECALCULUS
Fall 2017

Instructor: Mitchell Schoenbrun
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Office: Harney 122E
Mailbox Location: Harney 222

Classroom: Kalmanovitz Hall
 Section 40666 (10:30AM) - 263
 Section 40667 (11:45AM) - 267
Office hours: MW KA 265 1:00-2:00

Midterms: Monday 9/25
 Monday 10/30
Final Exam:
 Section 40666 Monday 12/11 10am
 Section 40667 Wednesday 12/13 10am

Prerequisite:

Two years of high-school algebra and a minimum score of 460 on Math SAT or 19 on Math ACT or 12 on Math Placement Test or Math 104. This course is a prerequisite for MATH 109 (Calculus I)

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course you should have acquired an understanding of core concepts and a mastery of technical skills in mathematics to be ready for learning calculus. Specifically you should become familiar with:

- basic concepts such as real numbers, algebraic and fractional expressions, equations, inequalities, functions, their graphs, transformations, extreme values, combinations and inverses;
- polynomial and rational functions, factor and remainder theorems, real and complex zeros and partial fractions;
- complex numbers;
- exponential and logarithmic functions;
- trigonometric functions;
- coordinate geometry.

Required Textbook:

- Stewart, Redlin and Watson. *Precalculus: Mathematics for Calculus*. Seventh edition. The USF bookstore has purchase and rental options. You will need the 7th edition.

Coursework and Grades:

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Homework Assignments	10%
Midterms	50% (25% each)
Final Exam	40%

Though attendance and participation are not included in this scale, they may be used to boost borderline grades at the end of the semester. I may provide my class notes on my website at <http://schoenbrun.com/usf> however it is entirely *your* responsibility to acquire any information missed as a result of an absence.

Homework: Though the percent of your grade given to homework might seem low, doing homework conscientiously is critical to learning the material in this course, and thereby getting a passing grade. Doing the homework is your opportunity to practice the material covered in class. Without practice it is difficult to learn to apply what we are learning, and even harder to retain it. Unlike other subjects where forgetting everything you learned the day after the final might not impact your future education, mathematics is cumulative and dependent on the pre-requisite basics. Those of you who heed this will find the midterms and the final much easier than those who do not.

Please **staple** your papers and write your name and the assignment at the top right corner of at least the first page. A few problems on each assignment will be graded for correctness, and the rest will be checked for completeness. You are encouraged to work with other students on these problems however the work you hand in must be your own. You should come to class with questions about any problems that you found *difficult*. Do not get hung up on turning in a perfect homework

paper, but instead focus on what concepts you understand and which ones you need assistance with. Some answers can be found in the back of the textbook for you to check your results against but answers that have obviously been copied directly from the book will not receive any credit. You must show your work. If you know that you will not be able to attend class on a day that an assignment is due you have several options: 1) Turn in your assignment to me early, 2) Give it to a classmate to turn in for you, 3) Leave it in my mailbox in Harney 222 before or during class time or 4) email it to me the day before class.

Grading of homework.

I will be grading a few random problems on the homework, and checking to see if you have completed the assignment. Homework will be graded on a 4 point scale.

- 4) All graded problem were correct
- 3) Not all graded problems were correct but the assignment was completed
- 2) The assignment was not completed
- 1) The assignment was done insincerely
- 0) The assignment was not turned in

Note that you will get the same full credit for a 4 or 3. A 2 will get half credit. A 1 or 0 will get no credit. You are encouraged to resubmit a 2 or 1 assignment after you have completed it. I will allow a reasonable amount of time, but please do not expect to turn in a stack of assignments the week before finals.

Midterm Exams:

There will be two in-class midterm exams, each counting 25% toward your final grade. They will be given on Monday 9/25 and Monday 10/30. You will need to have a calculator for each exam (see "Calculator" below). You will not be allowed to use any notes or books on the exam. No make-up exams will be given so be sure to mark your calendars now. See me immediately if you already know of a conflict.

Final Exam: We will have an in-class cumulative final exam. The exam is scheduled for Monday December 11th at 10:00-12:00 section 40666 and Wednesday December 13th at 10:00-12:00 section 40667. The final will be longer than a midterm exam and you will have two hours to work on it. The day and time have been scheduled by the University and cannot be changed for any reason. *I will not give a make-up final exam for any reason* so mark your calendars immediately to avoid conflicts. If you check with me first, I may let you switch between the two section times, however you should know that you may end up with a different version of the final. This option may be limited by the size of our classroom.

Grading Scale:

Every exam as well as your final grade in the class will be based on a 100-point scale with letter grades assigned as

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
98	92	90	88	82	80	78	72	70	60	→

I reserve the right to make some minor adjustments on the borders based on attendance, class participation and obvious conscientious effort on your part. My ultimate goal is to be as fair and impartial as possible.

Honor Code:

As a Jesuit institution committed to *cura peronalis* - the care and education of the whole person - USF has an obligation to embody and foster the values of honesty and integrity. USF upholds the standards of honest and integrity from all members of the academic community. All students are expect to know and adhere to the University's Honor Code. You can read the full text of the code online at myusf.usfca.edu/fogcutter.

Calculators:

You will need a scientific calculator for this course and should **have it with you during all class meetings and especially for every exam**. Graphics calculators, programmable calculators, cell phones and any other device which allows the storage and display of formulas may be used for coursework but are prohibited during examinations.

Course Web Page:

You can access your class Web Page by going to www.schoenbrun.com/usf/math108a.

Additional Comments:

- Please turn off your cell phones during class time. If you have a truly important reason not to, please sit near the rear of the class and take your call outside.
- Please make a conscious effort to be on time to class. If you need to be late, please come in quietly and sit near the door.
- Students are expected to conduct their academic work in a professional and ethical manner. Any student found cheating on an exam will automatically receive an F in the course and will be reported to the Dean.
- If you do not understand a particular concept, ask me in class, come to my office hours or ask your study group. Mathematics is cumulative and if you start to fall behind it becomes increasingly difficult to catch up. You are encouraged to politely interrupt me in class with questions.
- If you feel like you need more help than what you can receive from me or your peers, please take advantage of tutoring available through the *Learning and Writing Center*. Visit them in person in Cowell 215, call them at extension 6713 or go to myusf.usfca.edu/student-life/lwc. They usually have drop-in group tutoring as well as personal tutors available.

Important dates:

- *Friday August 25th: First day that I will be in class*
- *Monday September 4th: Labor Day, no class*
- *Friday September 8th: Census Date (last day to drop classes without a W)*
- *Monday September 25th: Midterm Exam I*
- *Monday October 16th: Fall Break, no class*
- *Monday October 30th: Midterm Exam II*
- *Friday November 3rd: Last day to withdraw (no exceptions)*
- *Friday November 24th: Thanksgiving holiday, no class*
- *Wednesday December 6th: Last day of class*
- *Monday December 11th: Final Exam*
- *Wednesday December 13th: Final Exam*