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Course Objective

Our objective this quarter is to succeed in calculus. Certainly, there are myriad notions of success we might pursue: high grades, deep understanding, personal satisfaction, computational prowess, cogent mathematical writing, and rich enjoyment of this very best time in our intellectual lives. Part of our goal, then, is to get in touch with our own personalized meaning of success, not only in math class but beyond. In college. In life. Let the journey begin.

Methodology

Our high ambitions will necessitate various vehicles for progress.

1. **Discussion.** Class time will be spent discussing and working on mathematics, figuring out best practices for studying, organization, and intellectual well-being. Your engagement in the discourse is vital. You may be called upon to offer your thoughts or work a problem at your desk. You will get out of this class only what you put into it.

2. **Homework.** Homework is assigned in your regular Math 141 class. For some of us, it gets turned in and graded toward our overall Math 141 course grade. For others, our homework is never due in Math 141 but weekly quizzes cover the types of problems assigned on homework. Either way, homework is far and away the most important gateway to success in math classes here at Cal Poly. We will endeavor to keep close tabs on our homework load and discuss interesting and/or troublesome problems.

3. **ALEKS.** This quarter you will be required to (mostly) complete a personal pie chart of topics from precalculus using the ALEKS customized precalculus course that has been set up for us. Specifically, you will log on to the ALEKS website and register using the instructions that I will pass out on the first day of class. Once in, you will be able to take a little tutorial about how to enter answers in ALEKS and will then be prompted to take an “Initial Assessment.” When you’re done, ALEKS will know your precalculus strengths and weaknesses and use this information to create a personal precalculus piechart for you. Your objective is to master 90% of your chart by Friday of week four.
Ethos

Our guiding belief is that we have reached a defining moment in our mathematical education. The development of calculus is one of the greatest intellectual achievements in the history of humankind. True understanding will come only to those who vigorously seek it. We are here to become the thinkers and students we have always wanted to be.

Office Hours

Our in-class discussions will likely be the proverbial “tip of the iceberg.” To facilitate sustained mathematical discussion, there will be additional times to meet throughout the week. Truly, we all set aside these times for you. Come see me and visit your Math 141 instructor’s office hours too!

- M 11:10-12:30.
- T 12:10-1:00.
- R 12:10-1:00.
- F 12:10-1:00.
- By appointment.

Grading

This course is Credit/No Credit. Credit is awarded as follows:

- Participation/Attendance (50%)
- 90% ALEKS Mastery by 10/16 (50%)

Academic Integrity

It is my opinion that there is hardly any human act more satisfying or important than the sharing of knowledge. I therefore consider the classroom and the university at large to be hallowed ground, well deserving of all the humility and respect that we would afford our other most sacred places.

Please refer to the University’s policy on cheating and plagiarism found in the Campus Administration Manual, Section 684.

In short: be sensible, respectful and mindful of the integrity of the system we are all so lucky to share.