

**Fayetteville State University**  
**College of Art and Sciences**  
**Department of Mathematics and Computer Science**  
**Fall Semester – 2011**

**I. Locator Information:**

Instructor: Dr. Guanghua Zhao

Course # and Name: **MATH 121 – Introduction to College Algebra**      Office Location: SBE 347

Semester Credit Hours: 4

Office hours: M 9:00-12:00, 4:00-4:30 ;  
W 4:00-4:30; F 9:00-10:00, 12:00-1:00

Day and Time Class Meets: MWF 3:00 pm- 3:50 pm      Office Phone: 910-672-1500

Total Contact Hours for Class: 60

Email address: gzhao@uncfsu.edu

MATHXL Course ID: XL0Q-D1M1-101Y-5CY2

**FSU Policy on Electronic Mail:** Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account ([username@uncfsu.edu](mailto:username@uncfsu.edu)) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at <http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

**II. Course Description:** This course provides a foundation in algebraic concepts and problem solving skills for students who are preparing to take college algebra. Topics include arithmetic of real numbers, simplifying expressions (polynomial, rational, radical, etc), and solving equations and inequalities.

**III. Disabled Student Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor); 910-672-1203.

**IV. Textbook:** K. Elayn Martin-Gay, **Beginning Algebra** 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Prentice Hall 2009, ISBN 0-13-600702-3

**V. Student Learning Outcomes –**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the differences among an expression, equation, and inequality
- Simplify and evaluate expressions
- Solve linear equations and linear inequalities
- Work with polynomials
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide rational expressions
- Solve quadratic equations by factoring
- Solve equations with rational expressions
- Simplify radical expressions and solve radical equations
- Write mathematical expressions for simple verbal problems
- Write mathematical equations for simple real world verbal problems and solve those equations

## VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria -

### a. Grading Scale –

A	92-100%	B	83-91%
C	73-82%	D	64-72%
F	below 64%		

b. Attendance Requirements – Attendance is compulsory. Students whose class absences exceed 10% of the contact hours will receive a warning grade of EA=Excessive Absences. For more information, see the attached page “Revision of Grades – Student Responsibilities”.

### c. Graded Assignments – and Value of each assignment

Chapter Tests (6)	50% (lowest test grade will be dropped)
Homework (Using MATHXL)	25%
Post-test	05%
Final Exam	20%

d. Policy on Missed or Late Assignments - No make up tests for chapter tests or the final examination.

**Please note: If these evaluation criteria must be revised because of extraordinary circumstances, the instructor will distribute a written amendment to the syllabus.**

**Student Behavior Expectations:** -The instructor will respect all students and will make every effort to maintain a classroom climate that promotes learning for all students. Students must accept their responsibility for maintaining a positive classroom environment by abiding by the following rules:

1. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, remain in class until dismissed by the instructor, and refrain from preparing to leave class until it is dismissed.
2. Student/teacher relationships, as well as relationships among peers, must be respectful at all times.
3. Students are not permitted to wear headphones or other devices that may distract to the classroom environment.
4. Students must refrain from any activity that will disrupt the class; this includes turning off cell phones and pagers.
5. Students are not permitted to use profanity in the classroom.
6. Students will not pass notes or carry on private conversations while class is being conducted.

**Consequences for Failing to Meet Behavioral Expectations:** The first time a student violates one of these rules, the instructor will warn him or her privately, either after class or before the next class. (Faculty members reserve the right to warn students publicly if needed.) The second time a student violates the guidelines; the instructor may deduct as many as twenty points from the student’s next exam grade. If a student violates the guidelines three times, the instructor will report the student to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action according to the FSU Code of Student Conduct.

## VII. Academic Support Resources –

Use any academic support resources available in this class. In addition,

- Students enrolled in MATH 121- Introduction to College Algebra, may complete weekly assignments on MATHXL in the Mathematics Laboratory at SBE 214
- The Mathematics Laboratory (located at H.T. Chick 216 C) provides computer-assisted instruction and peer tutoring for students who wish to strengthen their mathematics skills.
- **Internet Access to MATHXL** might also be available in other open use [computer labs](#) such as **Lyons Science Annex 125**. Please check with the corresponding lab staff for more information.
- Some instructors may use the [Supplemental Instruction Service](#) (SI). Please see your instructor’s announcement for more information. (<http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/si/>)



Exponents	Exercise Set 5.1	Homework for chapter 5 due:10/09/11
Adding & Subtracting Polynomials	Exercise Set 5.2	
Multiplying Polynomials	Exercise Set 5.3	
Special Products	Exercise Set 5.4	
Negative Exponents & Scientific Notation	Exercise Set 5.5	
Division of Polynomials	Exercise Set 5.6	
<b>Review Chapter Five</b> <b>TEST 3</b>		
GCF and Factoring by Grouping	Exercise Set 6.1	Homework for chapter 6 due: 10/26/11
Factoring Trinomials; $x^2 + bx + c$	Exercise Set 6.2	
Factoring Trinomials; $ax^2 + bx + c$ And perfect square Trinomials	Exercise Set 6.3	
Factoring Trinomials; $ax^2 + bx + c$ by grouping	Exercise Set 6.4	
<b>Midterm Break</b>		
Factoring Binomials	Exercise Set 6.5	Homework for chapter 6 due: 10/26/11
Quadratic Equations – Factoring	Exercise Set 6.6	
Quadratic Equations and Problem Solving	Exercise Set 6.7	
<b>Review Chapter Six</b> <b>TEST # 4</b>		
Simplifying Rational Expressions	Exercise Set 7.1	Homework for chapter 7 due :11/14/11
Multiplying and Dividing Rational Expressions	Exercise Set 7.2	
Addition, Subtraction, and LCD	Exercise Set 7.3	
Addition & Subtraction with Unlike Denominators	Exercise Set 7.4	
Solving Equations Containing Rational Expressions	Exercise Set 7.5	
Proportions & Problem Solving with Rational Eq.	Exercise Set 7.6	
Simplifying Complex Fractions	Exercise Set 7.8	
Introduction to Radicals	Exercise Set 8.1	Homework for chapter 8 due: 11/28/11
Simplifying Radicals	Exercise Set 8.2	
Adding & Subtracting Radicals	Exercise Set 8.3	
Multiplying and Dividing Radicals	Exercise Set 8.4	
Solving Equations Containing Radicals	Exercise Set 8.5	
Radical Equations and Problem Solving	Exercise Set 8.6	
Rational Exponents	Exercise Set 8.7	
<b>Review Chapter 8</b> <b>TEST # 6</b>		
<b>Review for Final Examination</b>		11/30/11 & 12/02/11

Final Examination	Monday, December 5, 2011.	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
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**Important Sources:**

1. Final exam date of math 121 will be posted soon at: <http://www.uncfsu.edu/registrar/>. Further detailed information on final exam date, room assignment and rules will be announced by your instructor.
2. Information about academic regulations can be found at <http://catalog.uncfsu.edu/ug/academicregulations/index.htm>
3. Information on other important dates and holidays is available on *Academic Calendar* via: <http://catalog.uncfsu.edu/calendar.htm>

## REVISION OF GRADES – STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The following revisions become effective on August 16, 2007.

### WN GRADE DISCONTINUED:

- WN - Withdrawal due to non-attendance - discontinued, effective August 16, 2007.

**STUDENTS:** Do not expect faculty to withdraw you for non-attendance. Drop or withdraw\* from classes according to the deadlines published in the catalog. \*See warning below about class withdrawals.

**NEW TYPE OF GRADE: INTERIM GRADES** – (New name for “midterm grade,” with additional purposes). Interim grades will be assigned from the first week of the semester until the deadline for class withdrawals. Interim grades are used for informational and warning purposes only; they are not part of your permanent transcript and have no effect on your GPA. Instructors may assign interim grade of F to warn students of poor academic performance or they may assign “X” or “EA” grades. (See below for explanations) After midterm, faculty will assign all students an interim grade of A – F to inform students of their academic status as of midterm.

- INTERIM GRADE X = NO SHOW – Assigned to students who are on a class roster, but never attend class. For warning purposes only; NOT a final grade.

**STUDENTS:** Check interim grades early in the semester. If you have an X grade, either begin attending the class or withdraw\* from it. \*See warning below about class withdrawals. If you do not take action in response to an X grade, you will receive a final grade of FN. (See “FN” below)

- INTERIM GRADE EA = EXCESSIVE ABSENCES - Assigned to students whose class absences exceed 10% of the total contact hours. For warning purposes only, NOT a final grade.

**STUDENTS:** Check your interim grades often. If you have an “EA” grade for a class, you are in jeopardy of failure if you do not take immediate actions. Either resume attending the class or withdraw from it. \*See warning below about class withdrawals.

### NEW FINAL GRADE:

- FN = FAILURE DUE TO NON-ATTENDANCE – Assigned to students who are on class roster, but never attend the class. An FN grades is equivalent to an F grade in the calculation of the GPA.

**STUDENTS:** You must attend (or withdraw\* from) all the classes for which you are enrolled. \*See warning below about class withdrawals.

### WARNING ABOUT CLASS WITHDRAWALS:

- When you withdraw from a class, you are wasting your money and time. You receive no refund for withdrawing from individual classes and you slow your progress toward degree completion.
- If you withdraw from or fail more than one-third of your classes, you will no longer be eligible for financial aid.
- STRIVE TO EARN CREDIT FOR ALL THE CLASSES IN WHICH YOU ENROLL; WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES ONLY WHEN IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!