Laurel Drake MATH 105: Precalculus Fall 2020

Instructor Laurel Drake email: ldrake4@gmu.edu

Office Hours By appointment. Please email your questions or else we can meet in a zoom session.

Textbook The textbook is Precalculus, 1st edition, by Miller and Gerken. You will also need a student access code for ALEKS which is available in the bookstore.

Sections Covered each Week:

Week #	**Sections we will cover**
Week 1	Chapter R and 1.1
Week 2	1.3, 1.4, 1.6
Week 3	1.7, 1.8, 2.1
Week 4	2.2, 2.3, 2.4
Test 1	Fri. 9/18 material from Weeks 1-3
Week 5	2.5, 2.6
Week 6	3.1, 3.2, 3.3
Week 7	3.4, 3.5
Week 8	3.6, 1.2
Test 2	Fri. 10/16 material from Weeks 4-7
Week 9	4.1,4.2
Week 10	4.3,4.4
Week 11	4.5,4.6, 4.7
Week 12	5.1, 5.2,5.3
Week 13	5.5, 6.1
Test 3	Fri. 11/20 material from Weeks 8-12
Week 14	6.2, 6.3
Week 15	Final Exam Review
Final Exam	Thursday Dec. 10 Comprehensive Final Exam

Your typical week (worksheet, HW, quiz - over the material of the previous week)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Turn in worksheet to Assignment Folder on Bb	Aleks HW due	Aleks quiz due; Begin new homework on Aleks; Class - new material;		Class - new material	Begin new worksheet from Worksheets folder of Bb	

Prerequisite The prerequisites have been removed for Math 105 for the Fall 2020 semester due to the COVID-19 emergency. If you feel that you are unprepared for this class, please reach out to me ASAP so that we can discuss your options.

Book Chapters Generally, Chapters 1-6 in the textbook, including: Algebra review, Polynomial, Rational, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, and Trigonometry. The pace of the course is very fast. A comfortable working knowledge of algebra is assumed. The demands of the course will require a serious time commitment. You are encouraged to sign on to Blackboard multiple times throughout the week so that you do not get behind.

Nature of Course All course materials and activities will be held online. The lecture portion of this course will be delivered using the following tools:

- Textbook
- Internet based activities and problem solving
- Publisher provided videos and activities

Students may ask questions about the material in a variety of ways. Email is a very good way to get a quick response to questions, and I try to answer emails as soon as I get them.

Calculators Because this course is designed as preparation for the Calculus 113-114 sequence, one of its primary goals is to help students acquire competence with basic algebraic and functional concepts and relationships. Accordingly, we will use calculators sparingly. I encourage you to attempt all homework problems without calculators, though some questions may require one. You are required to show all work for written assignments. While the calculator may be able to provide you with the correct answer, it is your responsibility to be able to provide the required work.

Required Technology

We will be using the online learning system ALEKS. To sign up, please go to the BlackBoard course and click the link on the left for ALEKS. Once in the ALEKS tab click the link that says "ALEKS". This will take you to the registration page for ALEKS. Create an account and complete the initial knowledge check. You will want to make sure to have paper and something to write with to complete this. Make sure you have set aside time and are in a quiet, distraction free place.

You are required to have signed up for ALEKS by Friday, August 28. If this is a problem for you, please contact me.

This course uses BlackBoard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the BlackBoard version available on the myMason Portal. Log in to MyMason at mymason.gmu.edu to access this course.

You will need a working internet connection and a computer with a webcam for exams. You will need to download the Aleks Lockdown Browser in order to take the online exams in Aleks.

Course Grades Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

ALEKS homework 15%
Worksheets 20%
Quizzes 15%
Tests (10% each) 30%
Final Exam 20%

Assignments & Quizzes

You must complete each weekly learning unit by reading the textbook, watching any online videos and completing the pie on ALEKS. The week begins on Saturday and will end the following Friday.

Tuesday: Take the weekly quiz on Aleks.It must be completed by midnight on Tue.

On Friday: Begin the weekly worksheet stored in the Worksheets folder. It is due by 11:59 pm on Sunday. You must show your work for each question. Upload the finished worksheet PDF to the Assignments folder.

One thing that makes ALEKS unique is the ALEKS Pie. As you complete assignments, problems in the pie, knowledge checks and quizzes, the Pie will adapt to the content that you have mastered. There are due dates assigned to particular objectives (based on chapters in the textbook) so you will want to keep up with the assignments. You should be spending 1-2 hours on this class EVERY DAY and a lot of this time will be spent on working through the pie. There will also be weekly worksheets posted on Blackboard. These will be hand written worksheets, that you will be expected to upload back into the Assignments folder for credit. The uploaded files must be in PDF format in order to be counted for credit. The worksheets are usually graded on completion, but the point is to make sure that you are understanding the concepts and can convey them to someone else. All work must be shown on the worksheets to receive full credit. You are encouraged to work these problems with minimal help from the textbook or online resources.
There will be weekly quizzes assigned on Tuesday and due the same day.. The material for each quiz will contain material from the previous week, but can also contain random questions about material that has already been covered. Do not be shocked to see questions from past weeks. No late quizzes will be accepted and two quizzes will be dropped. If you are unable to complete a quiz on time, then you can expect that quiz to be one of the dropped quizzes.

Tests & Final Exam

There are 3 tests scheduled in this class. It is expected that students will take the tests through ALEKS on the scheduled day. There will be no make-up exams available. You will be monitored using the Lockdown Browser associated with ALEKS. I reserve the right to require a webcam for proctoring any exams. While this is not a requirement now, it may be in the future if there are academic honesty concerns.

Below is the tentative schedule of the tests, any changes will be announced in class or on Blackboard. The final exam will be cumulative.

Test 1 Friday, September 18
Test 2 Friday, October 16
Test 3 Friday, November 20
Final Exam Thursday, December 10

Honor Code It is expected that each student in this class will conduct himself or herself within the guidelines of the Honor Code. Among other things, this means that sharing information of any kind about exams or quizzes (either before or during the exam) will result, at a minimum, in a grade of zero for all parties involved. See academicintegrity.gmu.edu for a copy of the Honor Code. The right is reserved to check a picture identification during any of the exams. Students are not to discuss any assignment with anyone other than the professor unless explicitly stated on the assignment instructions. Consulting any online resources that are not approved is a violation of the Honor Code. If there is suspicion of academic dishonesty, the student will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity with a sanction of failing the assignment and/or the course.

If you miss a test:

If you miss a test, you will need to reschedule the test within one week and there will be a 10% penalty to your grade on the test. If you are able to provide written documentation due to illness or emergency of why you missed the test, then your test will be re- scheduled without a penalty to your grade.

Obtaining Help There are many outlets available for you to get help in this class. This is an online, 4-credit math course and will require 8-12 hours of work per week. I am very happy answer questions over email or to schedule appointments for online office hours. The Math Tutoring Center, offers free tutoring to Math 105 students. They are currently working online and I highly recommend utilizing this resource. The schedule of the tutoring center can be found at https://science.gmu.edu/academics/departments-units/mathematical-sciences/math-tutoring/tutoring-center-hours-and.

Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Office of Disability Services Student Union Building I (SUB I), Room 4205 Phone: 703.993.2474

E-mail & Blackboard

E-mail is an effective form of communication outside the classroom. I frequently send announcements through email so make sure that you activate and check your GMU email account regularly. All students are required to use their George Mason email for communication and for ALEKS. Please put Math 105 in the subject field anytime you send me an e-mail. If you want to discuss your grade via e-mail it must be done using your GMU e-mail account. I will be using Blackboard 9.1 in this class to post class announcements, grades and other important information pertaining to the class. You can access this by going to mymason.gmu.edu and logging in using your NetID.