Math 123: College Algebra and Trigonometry, Fall 2021

Professor: Tobias Johnson (tobias.johnson@csi.cuny.edu)
Office: 1S-225 (though I won’t routinely be there this semester...)
Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:20pm–2:00pm, via Zoom
Homework: Homework in this class will be on WebAssign, an online homework system, so you need to purchase access as soon as possible. Our WebAssign class key, which you’ll need to put in when you register with WebAssign, is csi.cuny 5210 9526.
Calculator: A graphing calculator is required. The TI-84 is highly recommended.
Course Website: http://www.math.csi.cuny.edu/~tobiasljohnson/123/
Announcements will be posted on the website. We’ll use Blackboard just for exam grades.
Office Hours: I’ll be available for video office hours through Zoom. See the website for the time and other logistical information.
Class overview:
The point of this class is to learn the algebra and trigonometry necessary for the study of calculus. In particular, the goal is to understand functions, to interpret their behavior via their graphs, and to use them for modeling.
Format:
Grading will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class questions</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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The in-class questions category refers to questions that I’ll ask you using the poll feature in Zoom. The idea is that sometimes I’ll ask you to solve a quick problem or to answer a conceptual question in a minute or two. You get half the credit just for answering the question, as an encouragement to participate, and the other half for getting it right.
The lowest quiz score will be dropped. For the midterms, I’ll give a approximate grade scale to tell you which score ranges on the test correspond to which letter grades.
All homework and quiz assignments will be posted and taken on WebAssign. There will be a midterm exam and a final exam that will be tentatively administered in person on campus. The midterm is scheduled for October 25, though this may change depending on room availability and the course of the pandemic; the date will be set at least a week in advance. Homework assignments must be submitted through WebAssign by the listed due date. Late submissions will not be accepted except in very unusual circumstances. All other course assignments, including quizzes will take
place during class time. There will be no make-up exams and/or other assignments under any circumstances. If you miss an exam for a valid, well-documented reason, you may be excused and your remaining exams will be reweighted to account for the missed one. The final cannot be rescheduled except under highly unusual circumstances.

A warning: **there will not be opportunities for make-up work or for extra credit.** This isn’t meant to teach you a lesson or punish you or anything like that. Rather, it’s that in my experience, if you lose the thread of the class, it’s almost impossible to regain it.

I do understand that sometimes it can take a while before the course material starts falling together, and if you show strong improvement from the beginning to the end of the class, at my discretion I’ll raise your grade by one step (e.g., from B+ to A-). This is only for students who show a major improvement from the beginning to the end of the class, and I should mention that I rarely use it (but I’m always happy when I get to!).

**Student Accessibility** Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Center for Student Accessibility. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of students eligibility from the Center for Student Accessibility. It is the students responsibility to initiate contact with the Center for Student Accessibility staff and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

**Recording on Zoom:** Zoom lectures will be recorded so that you can look back at them or watch them if you have to miss class. Students who participate in this class with their camera on or use a profile image (which is highly encouraged!) are agreeing to have their video or image recorded solely for the purpose of creating a record for students enrolled in the class to refer to, including those enrolled students who are unable to attend live. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the “chat” feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live.

**The Unexpected:** Unexpected things happen to everyone, and right now the rate of unexpected occurrences is especially high. I’ll try to be as flexible as I can. Don’t hesitate to talk to me if your circumstances are making it hard for you or if the course policies treat your situation unfairly.