PRECALCULUS
Syllabus for Math 120 B, Spring 2009

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Office Hours: Mon. 3-4pm, Wed. 5:30-6:15pm, and Thurs. 10-11am

Office hours are times when you can speak to me without making an appointment - just stop by.

Send me email or talk to me if you need to meet me and cannot make *any* of my office hours, or have any questions or concerns. When emailing me, please indicate which that you are in my Math 120 B course in the *subject line*. Also, start the email message with my name so I know who you think you are writing to, and sign it so I know how to address a reply.

Purpose of the course: This course is designed to prepare you for learning calculus.

This course will help you develop the skills and stamina necessary to solve lengthy, multi-step problems, involving a variety of pre-calculus mathematical concepts.

Text: *Precalculus, A First Course In Problem Solving*, 2008-2009 edition, by D.H. Collingwood & K.D. Prince, Available at Professional Copy 'n' Print, 4200 University Way NE; it is also available electronically via the class website.

Class Meetings: There will be lectures each Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday accompanied with 15-20 minute question and answer sessions. The Q&A sessions are intended for discussing the homework problems and questions related to the previous lectures. You should come each day to class prepared to ask questions.

On most Thursdays part of the class period will be used to prepare for exams by working and discussing problems taken from an actual past Math 120 exam. Participation in this is required, and will make up a small portion of your grade in the course.

Homework: You should visit the class website to find out what homework has been assigned. Beginning April 6, homework will be due every Monday except on the Mondays following a Friday exam.

The homework is the most important part of the course. Generally, homework due on Monday will correspond to the previous week's lectures. You should expect to spend approximately 15 hours a week working on problems in this course.

Since you will create many graphs and diagrams in the homework, it is strongly recommended that you use graph paper for your homework.

Late homework will not be accepted. However, you are allowed to miss *one* homework assignment, for any reason, without penalty to your grade.

Answers (but not solutions) to most problems can be found in the text. Thus, your homework will not be graded on the bottom line answers, but on the work which led to the answer. So, *you must show your work!*. This is the same way exams are graded: by the work shown. So homework is a good place to practice showing all work.

Since you should have lots of time to work the homework problems (and to seek assistance if necessary), I will be expecting you to complete and have accurate write-ups of **all** assigned problems. Hence, only a sample of problems (usually one for each chapter) will be graded.

Exams:

Exam I	**Thursday, April 23**
Exam II	**Thursday, May 21**
Final Exam	**Date and time TBA**

Exams are cumulative: you may be asked to solve problems using techniques discussed at any prior point in the course.

Don't miss exams!!! You may not make up a missed exam unless you have an extremely good excuse involving some unavoidable, unforeseen, compelling, and well-documented event (e.g. sudden illness, traffic accident, etc.) and you contact me *as soon as possible* to inform me of your situation. (Note that I will require sufficient documentation of such an event before a makeup exam can be given, i.e., a doctors note, police report, etc.)

Calculators and notes: Graphing calculators are not allowed on exams in this course. A non-graphing scientific calculator is required for this course. These can be purchased at the UW Bookstore and many other places for under $20. Other electronic devices are not allowed.

A single, **hand-written**, double-sided, 8.5×11 inch sheet of notes is allowed during exams.

Grading: Your grade will be made up of the following:

test-prep	2 %
homework	13 %
Exam I	25 %
Exam II	25 %
Final Exam	35 %

The course grade scale can be found on my website. Final course grades will not be curved unless the class median falls below 2.5.

If you feel that an error in grading has occurred, you have **one week** after the exam, quiz or homework is returned to bring it to my attention. You should stop by my office hours to discuss it.

Tips for Success:

- **Homework is key!** Mathematics is truly learned when you completely solve a problem AND understand the underlying concepts and tools so as to be able to apply them to related problems. Doing and understanding all of the assigned homework problems is the best way to prepare for exams.
- **Ask for Help!** You are encouraged to ask me questions during class and during my office hours, take advantage of the **FREE** tutoring at the Math Study Center and CLUE (see below), and ask your classmates for help. YOU must be proactive to get help and do well in this course.

Resources:

- The class website can be found at:
  http://www.math.washington.edu/∼slvance/math120B/
  You will find various bits of useful information there, including a homework schedule and past math 120 exams and quizzes.
- The Math Study Center (Communications B-014) is open to students in MATH 120. The Center provides a comfortable place and a supportive atmosphere for students to come together and study, in groups or individually. The center is staffed by TAs and instructors. Follow the link on the class website to the MSC website for more information.
- The Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment (CLUE) holds drop-in tutoring sessions every weekday evening in Mary Gates Hall Commons. See **http://depts.washington.edu/clue/** for more details.
- The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206-543-6450/V, 206-543-6452/TTY, 206-685-7264 (FAX), or dso@u.washington.edu.
- The Student Counseling Center academic skills workshops on a variety of topics including stress management, test anxiety and time management to help you succeed at the University of Washington. Check out their offerings by following the link on the class website.