

**MTH 163**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Fall Semester, 2008**

**COURSE:** MTH 163-02: Precalculus I

**TEXTBOOK:** Algebra & Trigonometry, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition; by Michael Sullivan; Pearson Prentice Hall Publishing Company

**TIME:** MWF: 9:00 - 9:50 AM, Room 123 Diggs Hall

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dan Sims  
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Phone: 825-2981  
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Website: <http://community.tncc.edu/faculty/sims/>  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 10:00 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 1:00 PM  
Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30 – 11:00 AM, 12:30 – 2:00 PM

**PREREQUISITES:** Three years of high school mathematics, including algebra I, algebra II, and geometry or the equivalent (MTH 03, MTH 04). It is the student's responsibility to have completed all prerequisites for this class.

**COURSE GOALS:** MTH 163 is the first course in a two semester study of Precalculus mathematics. The MTH 163/164 sequence provides the mathematics necessary to support the science, medical laboratory, business administration, and liberal arts curricula. The MTH 163/164 sequence also provides the necessary background for the study of calculus. The MTH 163/164 sequence is generally transferable to four-year colleges and universities. The overall goals of MTH 163 are to acquire an understanding of the basics concepts of algebra, basic concepts of a function, exponential and logarithmic functions, and system of equations and inequalities.

**CALCULATORS:** A graphing calculator will periodically be used and each student is expected to have one. The TI-83 PLUS calculator is recommended because that is the model that will be used for demonstrations in class. Borrowing calculators from other students is not allowed. Calculators with Computer Algebra System (CAS) capabilities may not be used (TI-89, TI-92, etc). Cell phones cannot be used as calculators.

**HOMEWORK:** Homework problems for each section will be assigned on a regular basis. Each student is expected to study the assigned material and to work all of the assigned problems before coming to class. Some class time will be spent discussing the difficulties encountered with the homework exercises. You cannot be successful in this course without doing the homework.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:** The course content will be taught primarily through a series of lectures with ample class time being reserved for student questions and interaction. Classroom participation is a definite part of the instructional process and includes taking notes and asking questions in class.

**TESTING:** Four tests are scheduled as well as a mandatory, comprehensive final exam. The number of tests will depend upon time constraints. All tests will be announced with ample opportunity for preparation. All students are expected to take tests on the specified day. In general, no make-up tests or re-tests will be given (an exception may be made if the circumstances warrant it, and you notify me before the test date). In addition, the final exam grade will be substituted for your lowest test grade (if all tests were taken), or for any missed test (up to one test only). Thus, in these cases, your final exam grade will count twice - once for the lowest (missed) test and once as the final exam. If your exam is your lowest test score and all tests have been taken, then it will count only as one test score.

**TESTING SCHEDULE:**

Test 1	Sections R.6 - R.8, 1.1 - 1.4
Test 2	Sections 1.5 - 1.7, 2.1 - 2.5
Test 3	Sections 3.1 - 3.5, 5.2, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2
Test 4	Sections 6.3 - 6.8, 12.1 - 12.3, 12.6
Final Exam	Comprehensive

**GRADING POLICY:** The following grade average scale will be used to determine your final grade:

Average	Letter Grade
90 - 100%	A
80 - 89%	B
70 - 79%	C
60 - 69%	D
Below 60%	F

**APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE AND COURSE CONTENT:**

Week	Material	Comments
Weeks 1 & 2	<b>Chapter R:</b> Review	Students are responsible for all sections but only Sections R.6 – R.8 will be lectured.
Weeks 3 & 4	<b>Chapter 1:</b> Equations and Inequalities	All sections will be covered.
Weeks 5 - 7	<b>Chapter 2:</b> Graphs	All sections will be covered.
Weeks 8 - 10	<b>Chapter 3:</b> Functions and Their Graphs	Section 3.6 is omitted.
Weeks 11 - 13	<b>Chapter 5:</b> Polynomial and Rational Functions <b>Chapter 6:</b> Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	Only sections 5.2 and 5.4 will be covered. All other sections will be omitted. Section 6.9 is omitted.
Weeks 14 & 15	<b>Chapter 12:</b> Systems of Equations and Inequalities	As a minimum, cover sections 12.1 – 12.3 and 12.6. Review for Final Exam.
Final Exam	Friday, December 12, 9 – 10:45 AM	

**ALTERNATE SOURCES OF INSTRUCTION:**

**The College Math Center:** Located in Room 254C, the math center is available for students who need additional help outside of class.

**Tutorial Learning Center:** Located in Room 253, the tutorial center is available to assist currently enrolled students desiring additional help in their classes by providing them with peer tutors.

**CODE OF CONDUCT AND CLASSROOM POLICIES:** All students should adhere to the student code of conduct found in the Student Handbook, should come to class prepared to learn, and should demonstrate behavior conducive to learning at all times. Coming to class prepared to learn includes (but is not limited to) having all of the necessary supplies, arriving on time, staying the full time, and participating in the activities of the class. Entering the classroom late, leaving and returning during class or leaving class early is distracting to other students in the class as well as to the instructor, and therefore you are asked not to do so. If there is any special reason (medical condition, etc) that that requires you to leave class on a regular basis, let me know. Inappropriate or disruptive behavior may result in a student being removed from the class. Talking in class, directed to somebody other than the instructor, is not permitted. Classroom rules are those expected by employers and include courtesy and respect for other students and the instructor. Scholastic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated. Actions for scholastic dishonesty may include grade reduction, failing grade for course, and/or recommendation for possible dismissal from the college. Students are expected to have cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices turned off during class. Food and drinks are not allowed in the classroom (bottled water is ok). Children are not allowed to attend class. Inform me of any medical conditions that require special needs.

**REPETITION OF A COURSE:** Enrollment in a course is limited to two times. If a student needs to enroll for a third and final time, he or she must submit a written petition to the Vice President of Instruction (or his designee) for approval.

**ATTENDANCE:** Regular attendance is important and anticipated. Absences of 20% or more of classes can result in administrative withdrawal from the course unless there are extenuating circumstances (in which case you should notify me). If you are absent, you are responsible for all assignments, announcements, and material covered.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment with the office of Services for Students with Disabilities to register for support services (room 323, Hastings Hall, 825-2833, 825-2867 (V), or 825-2853 (TDD)). Documentation from this office is required in order to receive any special accommodations in the classroom.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

August 23	Classes begin
September 1	Labor Day (College closed)
September 2	Last day to add a class or make a schedule change
September 8	Last day to withdraw with a full refund
October 24	Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W". After this date, the grade will be a F (except under mitigating circumstances and if you are making satisfactory progress). If you decide to withdraw prior to this deadline, you must do it through NOL or fill out an ADD/DROP form and turn it in to the Records Office.
November 25-26	Faculty Days (No Classes)
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday (College closed)
December 8	Classes end

Any changes to the above will be noted in class