

FD'01

Chaminade University of Honolulu

**MA098 PREALGEBRA**

Q<sup>3</sup> 03 Fall 2001

Section 3 MWF 10:00 – 10:50, HH 102

Section 2 MWF 11:00 – 11:50, HH 223

**Instructor: Ms. Jodie L. Fenwick**

**Office: Math Lab Henry Hall 30 (?)**

*Note: There is no office phone, please call me at home.*

**Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM or by appointment**

**Home Phone: 550-0083 w/ answering machine (no calls after 11:00 PM, please)**

**Email Address: jfenwick@chaminade.edu**

**Course Description:** Foundation for further study in mathematics. Primarily the preparatory course for Algebra. Topics include whole numbers, fractions and mixed numbers, solving equations, decimals, ratio, proportion, and unit analysis, percents, and other selected topics.

**Required Textbook:** Prealgebra (4<sup>th</sup> edition). By Charles P. McKeague. Brooks/Cole Publishing Company. ISBN 0-534-37893-5

**Required Extras:** Looseleaf paper, one 3-ring binder for portfolio

**Course Objectives:** By taking this course, students will:

- 1) gain a better understanding of the rules and properties for the four basic operations and the order of operations.
- 2) develop rules for operations with signed integers.
- 3) define fractions and the properties that can be applied to fractions.
- 4) develop skills for operations with fractions and mixed numbers.
- 5) solve and graph linear equations with one and two variables.
- 6) develop skills to convert fractions to decimals and perform operations and problem solving with decimals.
- 7) gain understanding of the concept of square roots and the Pythagorean Theorem.
- 8) develop skills with ratios in order to compare numbers, units and proportions.
- 9) gain skills and understanding of percents and their applications.

**Attendance and Punctuality:** Class meetings are essential. Excused absences include illness, death of an immediate family member, official religious holidays, etc. More than five unexcused absences will result in points being deducted from the final grade.

**Freedom and Responsibility:** In this class you are free to express your opinions and to share your ideas; but with that freedom comes the responsibility to do your best work, to turn in assignments on time, and to treat other class members with courtesy and respect.

**Course Requirements:**

- 1) **Homework:** In order to keep up with the progress of this course, students are encouraged to do more problems than assigned "on your own" for practice – please note that these problems are also included in the *test bank* of the quizzes and exams to come. Some even numbered problems as well as extra handout assignment worksheets will be turned in for grading. **Assignments are due one week from the day assigned. Late homework is not accepted** (see me regarding exceptions). Homework may be submitted early by placing it in my homework box tacked to the wall outside of the Math Lab. Graded homework may be picked up there as well. All students may receive free tutoring in the Math Lab and qualified students may receive tutoring from the Academic Achievement Program.

- 2) **Journal Writing and Portfolio:** Periodically there will be in-class journal writing activities. These assignments are designed to help you verbalize the mathematical concepts you are learning. You will also be asked to read a math-related article and write a reaction paper. Regarding student portfolios: **All students are required to KEEP ALL handouts, journal activities, homework papers, quizzes, and exams in order by date in a 3-ring binder to be turned in the last week of school.** (It will be returned to the student after grading.) This will help each student see his/her own progress.
- 3) **Quizzes and Exams:** There will be weekly quizzes (at least one per week, but only the 12 best scores will be counted toward final grade), one exam after every chapter (at the very least we will cover chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), and a cumulative final exam. To stress the importance of regular attendance for this course, no make-up quizzes will be allowed.

**Grading:** (subject to change at instructor's discretion)

<b>HOMEWORK:</b>	25% of total grade
<b>QUIZZES:</b>	25%
<b>EXAMS:</b>	40%
<b>JOURNAL/PORTFOLIO:</b>	10%

**Grading Scale:**

<b>A</b>	90% - 100%
<b>B</b>	80% - 89%
<b>C</b>	70% - 79%
<b>D</b>	60% - 69%
<b>F</b>	Below 60%

**General Comments from the Instructor:**

Even when taking a math course with a good teacher, *you have to be prepared to work on your own.* Someone who understands math and knows how to present ideas well can make math feel comprehensible at the moment of presentation. Yet when you go home and try to do assigned problems, you may discover you can't do them.

*You can't learn math just by listening.* When you watch a pro play tennis it seems easy and you can see what you have to do. When you try to do it yourself, it is a different story entirely.

Problems look easy after they have been solved, because the difficult concepts and ideas are hidden in the final presentation. *To make these concepts your own, you have to think about them yourself and try to apply them.*

You will get the most out of this math class if you make it a practice to *read the material before it is covered in class.* You gain perspective on the material and clues about the areas where you will need to pay special attention to the instructor's explanation. *After class, it is necessary to go over the material again, even if you felt you understood it in class.*

Ask questions! There is no such thing as a dumb question. You never know, the questions you ask could very well be the same ones asked by the mathematicians of the past. It would be helpful to me and to your peers if you voiced your questions! *Remember, you have the right to ask questions before, during, and after class.* I also have office hours, please come see me. You can also make appointments to get answers to your questions. *I am willing to help you if you make your needs known.* In fact, I am disappointed when no students seek me out for help.

***Have a great semester!***