FD '02

Syllabus and Course Expectations

Objectives: 1. To give the student a firm introduction to the fundamentals of algebra.
2. To prepare the student for success in MA 100 or MA 102 or MA 103.

Emphases: Skill in manipulating rational numbers and simple algebraic expressions like polynomials, in solving equations; basic concepts and computational skills with integral exponents.

Text: **PreAlgebra** by McKeague. Brooks/Cole Publishing Company. Fourth Edition.

Topics: 1. Whole Numbers; the four operations; order of operations. Exponents.
2. Integers; the four operations; polynomials: addition, subtraction and mutliplication of same; simplifying algebraic expressions.
3. Rational numbers; the four operations.
4. Solving equations; graphing straight lines.
5. Square roots, simplifying radicals.
6. Ration, proportion, percent.

Strategy: The approach we will take in this course is that we are all teachers. We will work cooperatively, in small groups, and work a vast number of problems, both in class and for homework. Such cooperative work demands presence. Absence and tardiness will be penalized. There will be no tests, no quizzes and no final exam.

Assignments: Assignments will be given daily; they will be due at the next class meeting. Late assignments will be penalized ten percent for each calendar day's tardiness.

Calculators: Calculators may be used only when I so announce.

Walter Paddington:

Walter's mission in life is to witness to such attitudes as:
- there is more to life than mathematics;
- success is more than high grades;
- each of us is unconditionally loved.
Walter is available for consultation at any time.
Consultation usually takes place through hugging and holding.