

Math 251: Beginning Algebra
Mon/Wed/Fri 12:00 – 1:25 pm
SM 129

Instructor: Frank Gonzalez **Office:** SM 355

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Office Hours SM 355	1:30 – 3 pm	7:30 – 8 am 11 – Noon	1:30 – 3 pm	7:30 – 8 am	
Lab Hours SM 348	9 – 10:30am		9 – 10:30 am	10:30 - Noon	9:00 - Noon

Text: The following are **required**:

1. Beginning Algebra, Lial, et al., 11th Edition – Pearson Publishers, 2012. It is important to read (or at least skim) the sections before they are discussed in class.
2. Math 2 Course Notes, Gonzalez. These notes are also available for download on the class website.

Prerequisite: Math 351, Pre-Algebra.

Content & Objectives: We will cover chapters 1-9. This course is equivalent to an Algebra I course in high school. This course is also a prerequisite for Math 253.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete Math 251 will be able to:

1. Demonstrate mastery of the computational skills necessary for them to succeed when they move on to Math 253 or Math 205.
2. Demonstrate the critical thinking skills necessary to set up and solve word problems at the appropriate difficulty level.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in using the Cartesian coordinate system and in graphing linear functions and inequalities.

Grading

Grades are determined on the number of points earned out of 600 possible. There are four major categories for points. They are

- 1) Three tests (100 points each), see calendar for dates
- 2) Five quizzes (25 points each)
- 3) Homework (50 points possible)
- 4) Final Exam (150 points), see calendar for date

Note that your lowest quiz score will be dropped. The following scale then assigns letter grades:

A	B	C	Pass	D	No Pass	F	No Pass
90% or above	80% or above	68% or above		60% or above		Below 60%	
540 points	480 points	408 points		360 points		Less than 360	

Tests: There will be three tests, each worth 100 points. There is *no make-up tests allowed*. If you will miss a test, you must notify me no later than 24 hours after the test. Please see the calendar for dates.

Quizzes: There will be five quizzes each worth 25 points. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped, and thus there is *no make-up quizzes allowed*.

Homework: Collected weekly at the beginning of class on Fridays. Problems will come from the text and supplemental handouts. *No late homework is accepted*, and each assignment is worth 3 points, where 1 point is for correctness and 2 point are for completion. In addition, homework must be stapled with your first and last name, course title, and date clearly stated in the upper right hand corner of the front page. Homework not abiding by these standards will not be accepted.

Final Exam: The final exam is worth 150 points, and must be taken at the scheduled time. The final exam will in part be based on new material and in part comprehensive.

Policy

Calculators: A basic calculator is allowed on all homework, tests, and quizzes. Scientific or graphing calculators (such as a TI 30, 34, 83, 89, etc.) are not allowed. You cannot use your cell phone as a calculator. Your best bet is to always bring your calculator to class, since you will be attempting practice problems throughout class.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken on a daily basis. A student who has excessive absences (6 hours or more) may be dropped from the class without their permission.

Academic Honesty: In academics as in all parts of life, honesty and authenticity of ones work is regarded as the underlying moral code. Thus, anyone caught cheating will be held fully responsible in accord with the rules set out by Saddleback College (see *Student's Rights and Responsibilities* in the Student Handbook). In addition, please see the Math, Science, and Engineering Division Policy on Academic Integrity (a link is available on my web page).

Special Accommodations: If you have a documented disability and need accommodations for this class, see me within the first two weeks of the semester. Also contact Special Services for assistance, located in the Student Service Center, SSC 113, 582-4885. I must receive all appropriate documentation before allowing you to proceed with accommodations. A link to Special Services is located on my web page.

Additional Resources: Video cassette tapes are available in the audio visual section of the library. In addition, free tutoring is available in the LAP (Learning Assistance Program) located in Village 8. A link to the LAP is located on my website.

Additional Important Dates:

- February 14, Last day to drop with no penalty to your grade.
- February 14, Last day to switch grading to Pass / No Pass.
- April 5, Last day to drop with a "W" grade.