

# Beginning Algebra / Math 50 Syllabus

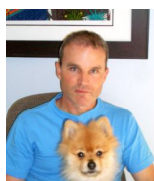
## Palomar College – Fall 2011

**A syllabus is an important and legally binding document. It is the student's responsibility to thoroughly understand its contents. By remaining enrolled in this course you are agreeing to all terms and conditions written in this syllabus.**

Course Compass (class) Website: <http://www.coursecompass.com/>

Course ID number: **mumford71771**

Student eServices: <https://eservices.palomar.edu/psp/pals9prd/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>



### Instructor Information

Michael Mumford, Associate Professor, Mathematics

Office: E-11J, 760-744-1150 ext 2538

Office Hours: MW 7:45-8:15 am, 2-3 pm, 4:30-5 pm, 7-7:30 pm

Email: [mmumford@palomar.edu](mailto:mmumford@palomar.edu)

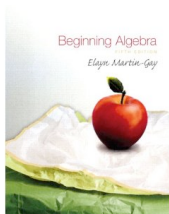
### You Need Internet Access and an Email Account



You will need Internet access to complete the daily homework assignments, check on class updates and to print out the class notes, practice exams, exam keys and other course materials. Please check the website regularly. I will often notify you of class changes by email. Please make sure the email address Student eServices and Course Compass has for you is correct. If you did not receive an email from me before the semester began, then the email address Palomar has for you needs to be updated. See

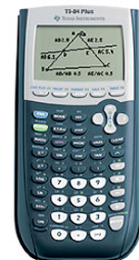
me, any of the computer lab assistants, or ask at the administration desk if you need help updating your email information.

### Textbook, Calculator, Website Subscription and Other Supplies



The required textbook is *Beginning Algebra, 5th Edition* by Elayn Martin-Gay (ISBN: 9780136007029). All homework must be submitted online through Course Compass. A subscription to Course Compass is required for the course (\$85). The subscription includes online homework, video tutorials, practice quizzes, the online version of the textbook, the instructor's solutions manual and more. Pearson sells the subscription for \$85 directly through their Course Compass website

(<http://www.coursecompass.com/>). The bookstore also sells an **access code** to Course Compass (either by itself or bundled with the hardcopy form of the textbook). If you do not want a hardcopy of the textbook, just sign up on the Course Compass website (you save the sales tax). When you register for Course Compass you will be asked for the Course ID number for this class, which is: **mumford71771**. A scientific calculator is required. All lectures are tailored to Texas Instrument's TI-83/TI-84 calculators (\$90-\$130). Please bring your calculator to class everyday.



### Pace and Realistic Academic Expectations



We will cover 10 chapters of the textbook; 2-3 sections each day. This is the same material taught in high school, but at almost three times the pace. Learning mathematics requires considerably more time, patience and discipline than almost all other subjects. Nationally, fewer than 50% of community college students pass math courses with a "C" or better.

Please plan on spending at least 12 hours per week of independent study time outside of class. I admit there is nothing “fair” about how much time a math class takes out of your life relative to other subjects. It is your challenge and responsibility to accept this reality and move forward. If you have more than one other class and either a full-time job or small children, then your academic expectations may not be reasonable.

## Grades



The six equally-weighted components of your course grade are four regular in-class exams (100 points each), a comprehensive in-class final exam (100 points), and online homework (100 points collectively). Your grade shall be determined by the average of those six components using the following percentage ranges: A (“Excellent Performance,” 90 - 100%), B (“Good Performance,” 80 - 89.99%), C (“Adequate Performance,” 70 - 79.99%), D (“Poor Performance,” 60 - 69.99%), and F (“Failing Performance,” below 60%).

Grade	Date	Points
Exam 1	9/19	100
Exam 2	10/10	100
Exam 3	11/14	100
Exam 4	12/05	100
Final Exam		100
Homework	Daily	100+

## Final Exam

The comprehensive in-class final exam must be taken on Monday 12/12/2011 from 9:45-11:35 a.m.

## Homework, Attendance & Participation Grade

Homework, attendance and participation are necessary to be successful in this course. Collectively, they are equivalent to one exam grade - 1/6 of your course grade. To receive full credit on a homework assignment it must be submitted by the due date/time shown on Course Compass (i.e. before the next class). Course compass automatically penalizes any late homework assignment by 5% per day. At the end of the semester the homework grades are “curved” so that the highest homework score is 105% (this is comparable to dropping 5-6 homework assignments). **Warning:** The homework grade should be considered a “keeping up” grade, rather than a “fluency in the material” grade. That is, the homework assignments provide only a minimal amount of practice – you will have to do many more problems to adequately prepare for the exams.

## No Early Exams, No Makeup Exams

I do not give early exams or makeup exams. However, your lowest exam score is replaced by your final exam score.

## Drop Deadlines, Drop Policy & Reinstatement Policy

Drop Deadlines	
No Grade	09/21
“W” Grade	10/15

If you wish to withdraw from the course, make sure you do it yourself by the drop deadlines shown in the table. Board Policy BP 418.2 allows instructors to drop students through 10/15 for three reasons: (1) excessive (i.e. 2 or more) absences, (2) missing an exam, or (3) poor participation (i.e. less than 60% on the homework). Arriving late or leaving early will each count as an absence. Any student who meets any of the three conditions and appears unable to earn a “C” or better will be dropped from the course. Any student dropped from the course who wishes to remain in the course may do so by (1) bringing their grade up to a “C” or better, and (2) bringing the instructor a filled-out reinstatement form for his signature.

## The Course gets Progressively More Difficult

Please keep in mind that you are taking a math course. Without any doubt, the course material and the exams get more difficult as the semester progresses. The first exam contains a lot of prerequisite material and always has the highest average. The remaining exams require you to know the previous material at higher and higher levels of fluency. Exam 4 and the comprehensive final exam generally have the lowest scores.

## Academic Integrity

(Board Policy BP 300.3 and 305) You are encouraged to work together and assist each other on the homework assignments. However, be aware that all exams are an individual effort and must be taken without any assistance whatsoever. Anyone found giving assistance, receiving assistance, using any other unauthorized source of information on any exam, or cheating in any other way shall receive a zero on that exam and that zero will count in your course grade computation. You must use a stand-alone, dedicated calculator on exams – you cannot use a calculator that is on a mobile phone, smart phone, or any device that can retrieve information from any source other than your brain.

## Inappropriate Behavior

Please refrain from disruptive or inappropriate behavior in class. The most common disruptive and/or inappropriate behaviors are (1) speaking when the instructor is speaking, (2) leaving while class is in session, (3) arriving while class is in session, and (4) using electronic devices in class. The California Education Code grants the instructor, at his sole discretion, the right to suspend a student from his class for up to 2 classes per incident. If such a suspension results in 3 or more absences, the instructor may drop that student from the course.

## No No No No No Electronic Devices in Class



Using a cell phone, iPod, PDA, game, computer, etc for **any reason** during class is disruptive, inappropriate and “good cause” for suspension from class. Please turn



off all such devices before coming into class.

## Free Tutoring Centers



The [Mathematics Learning Center](http://math.palomar.edu/mlc/) (MLC 744-1150 ext. 2718, <http://math.palomar.edu/mlc/>) is located in room E-2 on the main campus and is open 9 am – 8 pm Monday through Thursday and 9 am – 3 pm on Friday. Free walk-in tutoring is available in the MLC during those hours. The [Palomar tutoring center](#) (760-744-1150 ext. 2448) is located on the first floor of the library and offers free tutoring. The Escondido Center has a Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) that is open daily. I am generally willing to come in early and stay late to help students and my office hours this semester are just before and after my classes. You are also encouraged to exchange phone numbers and email addresses with other students and feel free to email me with questions.