

Math 101 Core Competency in Mathematics—FALL 2008

Student Information Sheet

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The course helps the student develop the use of mathematics in the world in which we live. It covers mastery of elementary skills and facts, understanding of logically correct arguments, learning to think abstractly, and increasing problem solving capacity. Competency developed should be helpful in continued learning, in setting and achieving goals, in personal decision-making, and in evaluating concerns in the community, state, and nation.

TEXT: Mathematical Thinking and Quantitative Reasoning, Fourth Edition, by L. Sons, P. Nicholls, and J. Stephen, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co. 2008

TOPICS COVERED: Elementary probability, statistics, and statistical testing; inductive and deductive reasoning; logical fallacies and survey analysis; graphical and algebraic solutions to equations; spatial relationships; personal finance; optimization; average rates of change; strategies in problem solving.

PREREQUISITES: Intermediate algebra and geometry

MATH 101 HOMEPAGE: <http://www.math.niu.edu> Click on Course Information.

CALCULATORS: You will need a hand calculator which can do basic arithmetic, square roots, and other exponents (a y to the x key). Either a scientific or graphing calculator is acceptable. Standard calculators will be allowed on all exams (laptops, calculators that access the internet, and calculators in cell phones are NOT allowed on exams).

GRADES: Your grade will be based on a total of 750 points as follows:

Three one-hour examinations (each 20 question multiple choice)	300 points
Final exam (40 question multiple choice)	200 points
Homework (9 out of 11 counted)	90 points
Weekly class quizzes (8 out of 10 counted)	80 points
Two projects	50 points
Mini-quizzes (10 counted)	30 points

FINAL EXAM: The comprehensive, mass exam (all sections take the same exam at the same time) is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 10, 8-9:50 P.M.** Your instructor will announce the location.

GRADING SCALE: The grading scale will be at least as generous as: A 85% (or 637 points); B 75% (or 562 points); C 60% (or 450 points); D 50% (or 375 points).

COURSE WITHDRAWAL: The last day to withdraw from this course is **Friday, October 17, 2008.**

MAKE-UP EXAMS will be given **ONLY** in the event of illness or serious emergency. All make-up exams will be resolved by the **END** of the semester. There will be no make-ups on quizzes.

CAAR STATEMENT: If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let your instructor know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the CAAR (Center for Access Ability Resources) Office located in the Health Services Building, 4th floor.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT: Academic honesty and mutual respect (student with student and instructor with student) are expected in this course. Mutual respect includes being on time for class and not leaving early, being prepared to give full attention to class work, not reading newspapers or other nonclass material in class, turning off phone ringers and not using cell phones or pagers during class time, and not looking at another student's work during exams. Academic misconduct, as defined by the Student Judicial Code, will not be treated lightly.

EXTRA HELP: Math 101 students are welcome in the residence hall tutoring centers. You are always welcome to consult with your instructor or TA during office hours.

ADVICE: Perhaps the single most important factor governing your success in this course is your **STUDY HABITS**. Think of learning mathematics like "working out" at the gym: study at least three times per week, and do not wait until the day before the exam to study. Work on the concepts until they make sense. Don't just memorize facts, but master each homework problem by going beyond just getting a correct answer. Be on the lookout for mistakes in algebra and arithmetic. Allow yourself to keep an open mind and have a positive attitude. **ALWAYS COME TO CLASS AND RECITATION!** While you are in class and recitation, listen, think, and ask questions.