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Course Description: Introduction to Algebra I, is the study of fundamental operations of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, factoring polynomials and selected topics.

Prerequisites: Appropriate score on the assessment instrument or completion of MATH 0309 with a grade of C or better.

Course Objectives: The general objectives of the course are to enable the student to perform basic algebraic skills, to exhibit understanding of basic algebraic concepts, and to apply problem-solving techniques.

Textbook: Carson, Gillespie, and Jordan. Elementary Algebra. 2nd. Ed. Addison Wesley, 2007.

Required Materials: Graph Paper, Ruler, #2 pencils and erasers, and 1 scantron for the final exam.

Course Content: Linear equations and inequalities in one variable, linear equations in two variables and their graphs, polynomials and exponents, and factoring.

Unit Exams (50%): There will be 4 comprehensive exams in this course. These exams will test the specific content covered in the unit as well as conceptual understanding, number sense, problem solving skills, mathematical reasoning, and communication skills. These exams will be given during regular class time on the days scheduled with a time limit. *A zero will be recorded if you missed a Unit Exam.*

Assessments (30%): On-line assessment will be done via MathXL. This can be done from any computer and is designed to help you attain 100 on each assignment by using the help keys available to you. After the On-line assessment is due, it will NOT be open again. The student is responsible to find a second, reliable computer to complete the on-line assessments. Written assessments will be given everyday and they are due at the beginning of the class period. The instructor will choose, at random, 3 to 8 problems to grade. Written assessments will be graded based on your conceptual understanding, mathematical reasoning, following directions, completion, and communication skills. All graphs must be drawn the way it was shown in class and on graph paper. If you know you are going to be absent, find a class mate that will turn in the assessment for you. When in doubt, turn in your assessment before it is due. Classroom assessments will be given occasionally during class. Instructor may or may not announce in class whether or not the classroom assessment will be turn in for a grade.

Final Exam (20%): There will be a comprehensive final exam (multiple choice) which will include the departmental post-test. The final exam will be taken as specified in the attached schedule in the regular classroom. A scantron and #2 pencils are required. *All students must take the final exam.*

Unit Exams _____	50%	A: 90 – 100	D: 60 - 69
Homework/ _____	30%	B: 80 – 89	F: 59 and below
Final Exam _____	20%	C: 70 - 79	

Make-Up Policy: Students are expected to always be present for major exams. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMS. NO EXCEPTIONS!!** If you miss a test for *any* reason, you will be assigned a grade of 0. The final exam grade based on 100 can replace one of your lowest unit exam grade if that will improve you grade. Late Written Assessments will not be accepted. Four assessment grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Scholastic Dishonesty Policy: Students caught cheating on any assignment, quiz or exam in this course will be assessed an F (or zero) on the particular activity involved for the course. Any student assigned an F (or zero) for cheating has five class days from the time that the assignment, quiz and/or exam is returned to the class to dispute the grade. After five class days, it will be assumed that the student has accepted the grade, and no changes will be made in the grade. Grades received as a penalty for cheating will not be dropped or replaced.

For the purpose of this course, cheating will be defined as (but not limited to) access or use of unauthorized material during exams and quizzes, collaboration between students during exams, quizzes, and assignments for which group work is not allowed, frequent perusal of another student's work during exams and quizzes, unauthorized copying of other student's work or allowing other students to copy your work on any assignment, quiz or exam, and having

unauthorized programs or other information stored on calculators when these calculators are accessible during an exam or quiz. **SPECIAL NOTICE:** All pagers and cell phones must be turned **OFF** during any and all tests, assessments, and/or labs. Simply being on “silent” mode is not enough. Therefore, if I see them out, you are considered using them, and therefore cheating.

Attendance Policy: The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Faculty requires students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student’s name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week’s worth of absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. If the student accumulates a total of two weeks’ worth of absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

The only absences *that will not be counted as an absence* as defined by the College are:

- (1) Observance of religious holy days – Sec. 51,911(b), **Texas Education Code**. *An institution of higher education shall excuse a student attending classes and/or required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. A student whose absence is excused under this section may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment.* The student should notify his/her instructor(s) not later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); and
- (2) Representing Blinn College at an official institutional function – a student is asked by the institution to be an official representative of the college at any function approved by the institution, the student is excused from any classes missed and must be allowed to complete all work without penalty for that absence(s) in a timely manner as directed by the faculty member.

Students are required to attend classes according to Blinn College policy. The instructor will keep an accurate record of each student’s attendance. **Any student who accumulates the equivalent of two weeks absences (4 days for T/R or M/W) will be withdrawn for the course with a grade of W.** If the student leaves before being dismissed, then the student will be counted absent. If the student is tardy, then it is the student’s responsibility to talk to the instructor to see if the absence can be changed to a tardy. *Two tardiness will be counted as one absence.*

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: We would like to help students with disabilities achieve their highest potential in college. To this end, in order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, students must provide proper documentation of their needs to the Center for Student Development. No accommodations can be made until the student makes an appointment with me during office hours to discuss accommodations, this should be done at least 24 hours before the 1st exam.

Calculator Policy: Calculators will not be allowed. Students with documented learning disabilities, that may provide for a calculator accommodation, should contact the Office of Disability Services for further information.

Civility Statement: Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor: it is the student’s responsibility to arrange for this conference. Literature other than the math topics being study will not be allowed.

Sources of help: Tutor Room: M-TR 9:00 AM – 5:30PM L-245

Instructor Office Hours

Learning Center: <http://www.blinn.edu/labs/bryan/index.htm> , L-258

M-TR 7:45 A.M. – 9:30 P.M.

F 7:45 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Sat 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Sun 5:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

Tentative Daily Schedule

Date	Topic
01-19 T	1.5 Order of Operations Part 1
01-21 R	1.5 Order of Operations Part 2
01-26 T	2.2 The Addition Principle 2.3 The Multiplication Principle
01-28 R	2.5 Translating Words Sentences to Equations
02-02 T	2.4 Applying the Principles to Formulas
02-04 R	2.6 Solving Linear and Compound Inequalities
02-09 T	Exam I 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5
02-11 R	3.2 Percents 4.1 The Rectangular Coordinate System
02-16 T	4.2 Graphing Linear Equations
02-18 R	4.3 Graphing Using Intercepts
02-23 T	4.4 Slope-Intercept Form
02-25 R	4.5 Point-Slope Form
03-02 T	4.6 Graphing Linear Inequalities
03-04 R	5.1 Exponential and Scientific Notation Part 1 5.4 Exponents Rules and Multiplying Monomials
03-09 T	Exam II 2.6, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6
03-11 R	5.1 Exponential and Scientific Notation Part 2
03-16 T	Spring Break
03-18 R	Spring Break
03-23 T	5.2 Introduction to Polynomials 5.3 Adding and Subtracting Polynomials
03-25 R	5.5 Multiplying Polynomials; Special Products
03-30 T	5.6 Exponents Rules and Dividing Polynomials
04-01 R	6.1 GCF and Factoring by Grouping
04-06 T	Exam III 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6
04-08 R	6.2 Factoring Trinomials
04-13 T	6.3 Factoring Trinomials
04-15 R	6.4 Factoring Special Products
04-20 T	6.5 Strategies for Factoring
04-22 R	6.6 Solving Quadratic Equations by Factoring
04-27 T	9.1 Square Roots
04-29 R	Exam IV 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6
05-04 T	Quiz on 9.1
	Final Exam - Comprehensive