Syllabus for Precalculus

Math 1060Q — Sections 001 and 002 (Lecture)
Spring 2013

Instructor: Greg Bonik

Office:	MSB 230
Email:	grigory.bonik@uconn.edu
Office Hours:	please see the web page
Class Meeting:	(Section 001) MWF 9:00-9:50 Cast204
	(Section 002) MWF 8:00-8:50 E2-321

Web Page: http://www.math.uconn.edu/~bonik/math1060s13/

Course Coordinator: Prof. Steven Pon, steven.pon@uconn.edu. The common course web page can be found at http://www.math.uconn.edu/ClassHomePages/Math1060/math1060s13/index.html.

Course Description: Preparation for calculus. Review of algebra. Functions and their applications; in particular, polynomials, rational functions, exponentials, logarithms and the trigonometric functions.

Text: *PreCalculus*, by Faires and DeFranza, 5th edition. The text is available for sale at the UConn bookstore, where it comes bundled with an access code for the WebAssign online homework system (access to WebAssign is required for this course).

Materials: This course will use WebAssign for homework and quizzes. A WebAssign code is bundled with the textbook sold at the UConn bookstore. Access to WebAssign may also be purchased directly from WebAssign at http://www.webassign.net. There is a free trial period for WebAssign, so that you can log on and complete the initial homework assignments without purchasing anything. You must obtain an access code before the free trial period expires.

See the common course website for information about how to log in to WebAssign.

A graphing calculator could be helpful for assignments, but is not necessary (a free alternative is http://www.fooplot.com, which gives you Google-maps-like control of graphs. Google itself can be used for simple graphs, e.g. try typing "x^2+4x−7" into the Google search bar). However, a large part of this course involves developing your skills without relying on technology, so calculators will not be allowed on quizzes and exams.

Homework: Homework will be assigned through the WebAssign system. You will be responsible for tracking due dates, which will all be published on WebAssign. Not all homework assignments will correspond exactly to a section in your textbook.

Quizzes: There will be a quiz almost every lecture. Make-up quizzes will not be given. Your lowest 4 quiz scores will be dropped.

Tests: There will be two midterm exams; the tentative dates for these two exams will be March 4 and April 8, but those dates are subject to change. All quizzes and exams will be taken in class, with the exception of a computer-based test at the beginning and the end of the semester. More details about this test (ALEKS) are included below.

ALEKS: All students must complete the ALEKS assessment tool at the beginning and the end of the course.

- *At the beginning of the course*, you will take the ALEKS assessment tool using your own computer – no proctor is necessary. This assessment will count toward your quiz grade for the course. You will have two tries at the assessment – if you do poorly the first time, you can raise your grade by studying and retaking the exam, and the higher of the two scores will be taken for your grade. Alternatively, if you do poorly the first time you can complete and submit a questionnaire to your instructor and your full participation in this questionnaire can raise your grade to an A. This assessment must be completed by Monday, January 28. Instructions for taking the ALEKS assessment can be found at:

  `http://www.math.uconn.edu/~pon/aleks.html`

- *At the end of the course*, you will again take the ALEKS assessment tool. This time, the exam will be taken in the MSB computer lab and will be proctored. You must successfully complete the ALEKS assessment – the penalty for not successfully completing the assessment is having your course grade reduced by a full letter grade. Successful completion of the ALEKS assessment means one of two things:

  1. A score of at least 70% on the proctored ALEKS assessment (you will have two tries) **OR**
  2. Completing the ALEKS assessment with a score lower than 70% and then meeting with your instructor to discuss weaknesses and skills that are lacking.

Each ALEKS assessment should take less than 90 minutes. In the un-proctored assessment, you can pause the exam and return to it at a later time. You will get two tries for each assessment, but must wait 48 hours between tries. This gives you time to use tools provided by ALEKS to increase your skills and knowledge before retaking the exam (you must complete five hours of work in an ALEKS learning module before retaking the exam).

Grading: Your course grade will be based on the following:

10%	Homework
20%	Quizzes
20%	Midterm Exam 1
20%	Midterm Exam 2
30%	Final Exam

You must also successfully complete the ALEKS assessment at the end of the course or risk losing a letter grade (see above).

Absences: You will be expected to attend every class. There will be no make-up exams, except for university-accepted reasons (this usually means an emergency visit to the doctor or another serious event). If for some reason you expect to not be able to make an exam, you must discuss this with your instructor *prior* to the exam date.

Office Hours: Your instructor will have weekly office hours, where you can go for extra help, or even if you don't have any questions – attending office hours is always a good tactic to improve your performance (and your grade) in the course.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty is a serious business, with very serious consequences. Please be familiar with the university policy on academic integrity (`http://www.community.uconn.edu/academic_integrity.html`).

Students Needing Special Accommodations: Student athletes and students with disabilities: Inform your instructor as soon as possible of your commitments as an athlete, any special needs that you have, etc. This is *your* responsibility. You will expected to bring in a letter from the Athletics Department or the Center for Students with Disabilities.

Religious Observances: University Senate passed a motion on about religious observances which stipulated that "Students anticipating such a conflict should inform their instructor in writing within the first three weeks of the semester, and prior to the anticipated absence, and should take the initiative to work out with the instructor a schedule for making up missed work". For conflicts with final examinations, students should, as usual, contact the Office of Student Services and Advocacy.

Final Exam Makeups: The final exam schedule will be set by the University Registrar later in the semester, and exams will take place between Monday, May 6 and Saturday, May 11. Students are required to be available for their exam and/or complete an assessment during the time stated in the Registrar's Office Schedule. If you have a conflict with this time you must visit the Office of Student Services and Advocacy to discuss the possibility of rescheduling this assessment.

** **NEW THIS YEAR** ** OSSA is REQUIRING that students who have a conflict about which they have or should have had advanced notice (bunched, religious obligation, le-

gal/medical appointments) MUST seek permission to reschedule their assessment much earlier than in past years. Check with OSSA for the exact date.

Please note that vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, graduations, social events, misreading the assessment schedule and over-sleeping are not viable excuses for missing a final assessment. If you think that your situation warrants permission to reschedule, please contact the Office of Student Services and Advocacy (2nd floor Wilbur Cross) to meet with a staff member.