Syllabus for Precalculus
Math 1060Q - Section 010 (Online/Hybrid)
Spring 2012

Instructors: Steven Pon and (John) Pat Schooley

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About the course: Section 010 of Math 1060Q will be run as a "hybrid" course, that combines components of both an online course and a traditional, in-class course. *This is not a purely online course!* You will learn new material from lecture notes, short videos, and your textbook on your own time, and then meet twice weekly for discussion sections to talk more in-depth about certain topics and discuss problem-solving strategies. There will be frequent quizzes in your discussion sections, so attendance is crucial to a successful completion of the course.

Web Page(s): Information about Section 010 of Math 1060Q may be found by logging into your HuskyCT account:

`http://learn.uconn.edu/`

There is also a common course website for Math 1060Q that includes office hours for all instructors and a rough outline for the course, at:

`http://www.math.uconn.edu/ClassHomePages/Math1060/math1060s13/index.html`

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).

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.

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 (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 exams unless otherwise specified.

Topics: This course is divided into five learning modules that roughly correspond to Chapters 1-5 of your textbook. We won't hit every single topic included in those chapters, but we'll cover most of them. These topics are designed to get you up to speed on the tools you'll need to do well in calculus and other math classes. In each module, you'll complete an online learning portion that involves:

1. written content with explanations, examples, and pictures;
2. instructional videos that are linked to from within the written content and provide further explanation;
3. supplemental textbook readings;
4. WebAssign assignments; and
5. discussion boards.

Through these module activities, you'll learn the main material of the course. You'll follow this up in your discussion sections, where you will cover more example problems, work through your homework problems with other students and the instructor, and get more detailed instruction on the hardest topics. You will be expected to complete a portion of the online module before every discussion section (the assigned portions will be given each week).

Tests: You will have a quiz most days in your discussion section. 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.

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.

Muddy Math Discussions: In each module, you'll be required to participate in a Muddy Math discussion. This gives you a chance to share insights, questions, connections, answer, and experiences with your fellow classmates. Participating in a Muddy Math discussion involves asking a detailed question, answering another student's question, answering one of the questions posed in the written module content, or explaining how you approach a tough topic.

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 math computer lab (MSB 203) 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 as before)

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 made up of 10% for homework, 5% for "Muddy Math" discussions, 25% for quizzes, 20% for each midterm, and 20% for the final. 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. This is not an online-only class, and the discussion sections will usually involve a quiz. 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.

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, legal/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.

Below is a **very** tentative schedule for the class. Some sections will take more time than anticipated, and some will take less. Track assignments and due dates on WebAssign.

Week	Sections
Week 1	Chapter 1
Week 2	Chapter 1
Week 3	Chapter 2
Week 4	Chapter 2
Week 5	Chapter 3
Week 6	Chapter 3
Week 7	Chapter 4
Week 8	Chapter 4
Week 9	Spring Break!
Week 10	Chapter 4
Week 11	Chapter 4
Week 12	Chapter 5
Week 13	Chapter 5
Week 14	Chapter 5
Week 15	Review
Week 16	Final Exam

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