



## PRECALCULUS I MTH 161-online

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Name: Dr. Pablo Chalmeta  
Email: [pchalmeta@nr.edu](mailto:pchalmeta@nr.edu)  
Website: [www.nr.edu/chalmeta](http://www.nr.edu/chalmeta)  
Office: Godbey 48, Mall 115A  
Office Phone: (540) 674-3600, ext: 4266  
Office Hours: <https://www.nr.edu/chalmeta/schedule.html>

### **IMPORTANT:**

- The recommended browser to use with the current version of Canvas is Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. Other browsers are inconsistent in their performance with Canvas. When taking tests or quizzes, use a wired connection.
- Check your VCCS email regularly and respond/keep in touch with your instructor.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Description: Presents topics in power, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations and inequalities.

Credits: 3  
Prerequisites: Competency in MTT 1-9 as demonstrated through placement or unit completion or equivalent. (Credit will not be awarded for both MTH 161 and MTH 167.)  
Submissions: 1 per lesson  
Assessments: 4 + Introductory Quiz  
Proctored Assessments: 4  
Online Activities: Required

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

**Textbook:** College Algebra. 3/e Corrected Edition July 2013  
Stitz and Zeager.  
Book available free: <http://stitz-zeager.com/>

**Software:** MyOpenMath Online Homework: <https://www.myopenmath.com/>

**Calculator:** A scientific calculator is recommended. If you own a calculator do not buy a new one. If you do not own a calculator don't spend a lot of money on one. I recommend the TI-30X IIS calculator.

**Note:** NRCC assumes no liability for virus, loss of data, or damage to software or computer when a student downloads software for classes.

*The Student's Guide to Online Learning* is available at <https://www.nr.edu/online/pdf/studentguide.pdf>.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Prepared By: Pablo Chalmeta

Approved By: Mrs. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz

### I. INTRODUCTION

This is an online course designed specifically for students whose learning styles are best served by providing instructional opportunities beyond the traditional classroom setting. Students should plan to spend at least 1.5 hours a day completing assignments and learning the material well enough to pass the tests and final exam.

### II. COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Work with integral and rational exponents.
- Work with radicals.
- Simplify algebraic expressions.
- Work with algebraic expressions.
- Solve linear inequalities.
- Be familiar with interval notation.
- Solve linear equations and applications involving linear equations.
- Solve absolute value equations and inequalities.
- Solve non-linear inequalities. (polynomial and rational)
- Solve quadratic equations.
- Solve equations which are reducible to quadratic form.
- Sketch the graph of linear equations.
- Sketch the graph of polynomial equations.
- Sketch the graph of rational equations.
- Define relation and function.
- Determine the domain and range of a function.
- Evaluate functions.
- Find the inverse of a one-to-one function.
- Apply functions.
- Determine zeros of polynomial functions using synthetic division and rational zeros theorem.
- Work with composition of functions.
- Approximate real zeros of a polynomial function.
- Identify exponential functions.
- Apply exponential functions.
- Convert exponential equations to and from logarithmic equations.
- Solve exponential equations.
- Solve logarithmic equations.
- Solve systems of equations using Gauss-Jordan Elimination.
- Solve systems of equations involving second-degree equations
- Perform partial fraction decomposition.

### III. COURSE CONTENT

Math 161 presents college algebra, algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic functions.

### IV. INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES

The primary instruction for the course is done through online videos available through the [MyOpenMath](#) software and the textbook.

I will be holding online office hours through Zoom BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Everyone's schedule is different and regular office hours rarely work for most students. I am happy to meet with you almost any time but you must contact me in advance. Best to use e-mail. The Zoom link will be in Canvas and MyOpenMath.

Students can contact their instructor through a variety of avenues: phone, voice mail, E-mail, mail, face-to-face during office hours, or by appointment.

General announcements for the course will occur on an as-needed basis. Updates to course information will be done through [MyOpenMath](#) and Canvas <https://vccs.instructure.com/>. **MAKE SURE TO TURN ON YOUR NOTIFICATIONS FOR BOTH.** Course documents are always available through the course webpage at <http://www.nr.edu/chalmeta>

### V. GRADING/EVALUATION

**Introductory Quiz:** The introductory quiz tests your knowledge of course policies and procedures. It counts for 2% of your grade and may be taken anywhere without a proctor. **If you do not complete the introductory quiz in the first week of class you will be withdrawn for non-participation under the Instructor Initiated Withdrawal policy.**

**Homework:** Giving your best effort on homework is the single best thing you can do to help your mathematics. As such, the homework submitted through the [MyOpenMath](#) software will count for a significant portion of the grade (18%). The homework is due the day before the test with the same material. There are additional homework problems in the textbook that are not collected for a grade but you are still responsible for knowing how to complete them. The Tutoring Connection on the main campus also has qualified tutors who can work with you on a regular basis.

#### **Tests:**

1. There will be three (3) tests administered through the [MyOpenMath](#) homework software.
2. You may take the tests from home.
3. The password for each of those is simply the word "password", without the quotes.
4. You will have 90 minutes to complete the test. (There are 15 extra minutes so that you can submit a scan of your work).
5. You may use a calculator but you **MAY NOT** use any of the symbolic abilities your calculator may have. This includes but is not limited to graphing and solving of equations of any type.
6. You **MUST** submit a scan of all your work that you wrote while you were taking the test through [MyOpenMath](#) before you submit your test. The scan must be a single PDF file less than 9MB. Work should be neat and legible, and problems should be numbered so that I can

easily see which work goes with which problem. The work should be complete as if you were solving the question in an in-class environment. It is not "notes" or "scratch work". The app [Office Lens](#) from Microsoft seems to do a good job with creating a single small file.

7. There will be no make-up tests. Any missed test will receive the score of "0". See Final Exam below.
8. Tests may be taken early.
9. *The average on all tests will count as 60% of the course grade*

**Final Exam.** There will be one comprehensive final given the last day of class. The score on the final will replace the lowest test score (including any missed test) if that will improve your final average. Testing procedures are the same for final as for the tests except you have 120 minutes to complete the final. *The final will count as at least 20% of the course grade.*

**Calculator:** A scientific calculator is recommended. If you own a calculator do not buy a new one. If you do not own a calculator don't spend a lot of money on one. I recommend the TI-30X IIS calculator.

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

| Description       | Percentage  |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Tests (3)         | 60%         |
| Introductory Quiz | 2%          |
| Homework          | 18%         |
| Final Exam        | 20%         |
| <b>Total:</b>     | <b>100%</b> |

| Grade | Final Average |
|-------|---------------|
| A     | 90 - 100      |
| B     | 80 - 89       |
| C     | 70 - 79       |
| D     | 60 - 69       |
| F     | 0 - 59        |

#### NOTES on grading and tests:

- Keep in mind that you might hit a trouble spot somewhere, so you should MOVE AS FAST AS YOU COMFORTABLY CAN, BUT AS SLOWLY AS YOU NEED, in order to meet the deadlines for the tests. The tests **MUST** be taken on or before the scheduled dates; however, you are encouraged to "work ahead."
- I do not curve grades. I do not "give" grades. You earn what you get, so plan to work accordingly.

## VI. EMAIL POLICY

If you send me an e-mail always use your NRCC issued email address. Be sure that your email client includes your name in the header. You should always include a **descriptive** subject line that includes the course number. Please remember to use complete sentences and follow the rules of grammar. The [Purdue OWL website \(click\)](#) has excellent information about creating a professional email. I communicate through email to your NRCC issued address. I WILL NOT be replying to email that does not conform to these requirements. I do reply to email within 24 hours during the week. Weekends may be longer.

## VII. WITHDRAWAL POLICY

### **Student Initiated Withdrawal Policy**

A student may drop or withdraw from a class without academic penalty during the first 60 percent of a session. For purposes of enrollment reporting, the following procedures apply:

- If a student withdraws from a class prior to the termination of the add/drop period for the session, the student will be removed from the class roll and no grade will be awarded.
- After the add/drop period, but prior to completion of 60 percent of a session, a student who withdraws from a class will be assigned a grade of “W.” A grade of “W” implies that the student was making satisfactory progress in the class at the time of withdrawal, that the withdrawal was officially made before the deadline published in the college calendar, or that the student was administratively transferred to a different program.
- After that time, if a student withdraws from a class, a grade of “F” or “U” will be assigned. Exceptions to this policy may be made under documented mitigating circumstances if the student was passing the course at the last date of attendance

A retroactive grade of “W” may be awarded only if the student would have been eligible under the previously stated policy to receive a “W” on the last date of class attendance. The last date of attendance for an online course will be the last date that work was submitted.

Late withdrawal appeals will be reviewed and a decision made by the Coordinator of Admissions and Records.

### **Instructor Initiated Withdrawal**

A student who adds a class or registers after the first day of class is counted absent from all class meetings missed. Each instructor is responsible for keeping a record of student attendance (face-to-face classes) or performance/participation (online classes) in each class throughout the semester.

When a student’s absences equal twice the number of weekly meetings of a class (equivalent amount of time for summer session), the student may be dropped for unsatisfactory attendance in the class by the instructor.

Since attendance is not a valid measurement for online learning courses, a student may be withdrawn due to non-performance. A student should refer to his/her course plan for the instructor’s policy.

When an instructor withdraws a student for unsatisfactory attendance (face-to-face class) or non-performance (online class), the last date of attendance/participation will be documented. A grade of “W” will be recorded during the first sixty percent (60%) period of a course. A student withdrawn after the sixty percent (60%) period will receive a grade of “F” or “U” except under documented mitigating circumstances when a letter of appeal has been submitted by the student. A copy of this documentation must be placed in the student’s academic file.

The student will be notified of the withdrawal by the Admissions and Records Office. An appeal of reinstatement into the class may be approved only by the instructor.

**No-Show Policy**

A student must either attend face-to-face courses or demonstrate participation in online courses by the last date to drop for a refund. A student who does not meet this deadline will be reported to the Admissions and Records Office and will be withdrawn as a no-show student. No refund will be applicable, and the student will not be allowed to attend/ participate in the class or submit assignments. Failure to attend or participate in a course will adversely impact a student's financial aid award.

**VIII. CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY**

Cheating includes the use of books, notes, electronic devices, or any other unauthorized material during tests. In particular, students may not bring mobile phones into the testing center. Cheating also includes plagiarism, which is defined as "To present another's words or ideas as one's own or without attribution" (American Heritage Dictionary, 2019). Remember that plagiarism includes using words or ideas from Internet sites, as well as copying from print sources.

Any student found cheating will receive a grade of "0" on that assignment and may receive an "F" for the course. This "0" cannot be replaced by any other score.

**IX. DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

The New River Community College community values the pluralistic nature of our society. We recognize diversity including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, social class, age, gender, sexual orientation and physical or mental capability. We respect the variety of ideas, experiences and practices that such diversity entails. It is our commitment to ensure equal opportunity and to sustain a climate of civility for all who work or study at NRCC, or who otherwise participate in the life of the college.

**X. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

New River Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations, 217 Edwards Hall, 540-674-3600, ext. 4241.

**XI. DISABILITY STATEMENT**

If you are a student with a disability and in need of accommodations for this course, please contact the Center for Disability Services (CDS) for assistance. CDS is located within the Advising Center in Rooker Hall. For more information about disabilities services, see [Center for Disability Services Policies and Procedures](#).