MATH 081: Basic Mathematical Skills
Winter 2025

Instructor Information

Name: _____ Office: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Office Hours: _____

Learning Environment

The course catalog for SVSU suggests that for every credit hour taken, students need to study approximately two additional hours every week. If mathematics is difficult for you, you may need to spend even more time on homework and study.
When speaking during a class meeting, be respectful and considerate of both the instructor and your fellow classmates. Come to class ready to work and build a community of learners with your peers.

Course Materials

1. **Texts:** This course is built using the topics from the following OER text *Prealgebra*, Second Edition by Marecek, Anthony-Smith, and Mathis https://openstax.org/details/books/prealgebra-2e
2. **Binder:** I recommend using a binder for this course to organize notes, worksheets, and handouts.

Calculator Policy

No calculators are allowed to be used on tests or exams.

Course Description

This course is designed to help students develop requisite skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, and operations using percentages and ratios, and basic linear equations. It is not applicable to general education requirements and/or minor requirements.
To graduate, every student must satisfy the University's Basic Skills requirements. A student placed into MATH 081 will receive a letter grade based on the University grading scale to reflect their performance in the course. The course grade will appear on the student's transcript, but it is not

factored into the official SVSU GPA (neither the semester GPA nor the cumulative GPA). The letter grade of Math 081 may potentially affect students in two ways:

- Athletics eligibility
- Financial aid and SAP (satisfactory academic progress)

Places to Get Help

1. **Office Hours:** Students are encouraged to take advantage of office hours in order to supplement in-class instruction.
2. **Math & Physics Resource Center (MPRC):** Located on the second floor of Zahnow Library. For current hours visit https://www.svsu.edu/mathandphysicsresourcecenter/. Or contact the MPRC at (989) 964-4648 or email mathtutor@svsu.edu.

Grading and Evaluation

Computational Skills Test: Students must take a Computational Skills test (100 points) covering the material found in sections 1.1 - 1.5, 3.1 - 3.4, and 5.1 - 5.2. Students will be required to achieve a grade of **70% or higher** to pass the Computational Skills test, else a grade of **zero** will be given in the computational skills portion of the semester grade. **Refer to the attached handout for the procedure and detailed information.**

Homework: Homework will be done using the MyOpenMath online system through Canvas and can be completed on your own. These have unlimited attempts by the given deadline of the homework set. The homework problems are algorithmic and provide detailed practice for each topic. All homework sets are due by **11:59 PM on the due date**. Homework can be completed after the due date with the use of a late pass, but there will be a 30% penalty.

Formative Assessment: Formative assessments will be given most weeks at the beginning of the week. These will be completed in class, allowing you to reflect on the course.

Quiz: Quizzes will be given most weeks at the end of the week. These will be completed in class and take 10 - 15 minutes to complete.

Instructor Points: The instructor will provide you with more details on this category.

Tests: There will be three unit tests. They will be in class and on paper tests. Notes and electronic devices are not allowed on any of the tests.

Final Exam: The Final Exam is comprehensive, and everyone MUST take the final exam. No exceptions! Notes and electronic devices are not allowed on the final.

Test Reviews: The MPRC will also have review sessions for the Final Exam and review sessions for the CST. There will be 10 bonus points for attending each session.

Evaluation	Percent of Total Grade
Computational Skills Test (CST)	10%
MyOpenMath Homework	12%
Formative Assessments	3%
Quizzes	5%
Instructor Points	10%
3 Tests	30%
Comprehensive Final Exam	30%

Course grades are based on the following scale (p = percent in class):

Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade
$93\% \leq p$	A	$83\% \leq p < 87\%$	B	$70\% \leq p < 77\%$	C
$90\% \leq p < 93\%$	A-	$80\% \leq p < 83\%$	B-	$60\% \leq p < 70\%$	D
$87\% \leq p < 90\%$	B+	$77\% \leq p < 80\%$	C+	$p < 60\%$	F

Tips for Success

Math is not a disjointed list of facts and formulas that should be remembered. Math is interconnected. When confronted with a new mathematical problem, you should identify what is new about this problem and what is based on concepts you already know. If you have forgotten these concepts, then go back and review. In fact, time should be spent every week reviewing old material. As you go through this course, create a structured review sheet. This review sheet should not just list things you should know. It should indicate how any particular part of mathematics relates to other parts of mathematics.

If you are struggling, get help right away. Ask your instructor for help when they go over homework in class. See your instructor outside of class. Get help from a friend. Go to the Math & Physics Resource Center.

If you are planning on taking a subsequent math course (or if you have to take this course again), then take that course as soon as possible while your mathematical skills remain fresh.

Academic Integrity Policy

All students are expected to abide by the University Honor Code. In mathematics classes, violations of the honor statement include copying another person's work on any graded assignment or test, collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor's approval, using unauthorized "cheat sheets" or technical devices such as calculators, cell phones or computers for graded tests or assignments, or other such infractions.

See the following link for SVSU's academic integrity policy:
https://www.svsu.edu/studentconductprograms/academicintegrity/academicintegritypolicy/

Disability Statement

Students with disabilities that may restrict their full participation in course activities are encouraged to meet with the instructor or contact the SVSU Office of Accessibility Resources and Accommodations, Wickes 260, 964-7000, for assistance.

Non-Discrimination Statement

SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability, or veteran status in the provision of education, employment, and other services.

Land Acknowledgment Statement

At Saginaw Valley State University, we recognize that we are located on the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, Wyandot, and Sauk. We specifically acknowledge the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and the land ceded in the Saginaw Treaty of 1819, on which we reside. We appreciate the importance of preserving and honoring the traditions of Indigenous People who are an integral part of our shared history. As we pledge to serve as responsible stewards of the land, we endeavor for this history to inform our teaching, scholarship, and our commitment to community.

Withdrawal Policy

Please consult an advisor and Student Financial Services Center before withdrawing from any course to discuss the possible implications the withdrawal will have on your degree process and financial aid.

See the following website for more detailed information about withdrawals:
https://www.svsu.edu/officeoftheregistrar/policiescatalog/withdrawals/

Important Dates

Last Day to withdraw "Without grade":	Friday, January 17th, 2024
Last Day to withdraw "With W grade":	Friday, March 28th, 2024

Tentative

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change if class needs warrant due to illness, inclement weather, etc.