

Welcome to Pre-Calc Math 176+076 – section 9989 and 9990

I'm Scott Eckert and I am your teacher for this course. I believe that our class is a joint effort. We are all learning in this environment together (I am learning right along with you). I believe in you and that you can do this course and rise to meet the challenges that it throws at you. Together, through our good hard work, sustained effort and common belief that we can all grow our brains in this process, we can reach success at the end and make a big jump forward on your educational goals.

But... first some remarks about our current situation ...

The "New Normal", hopefully this being the last semester.

Given the “new normal” we are all trying to get used to online learning during this time of school closures.

I'd like to share the following principles for our class this semester.

1. Nobody signed up for this.

- - Not for the sickness, not for the social distancing, not for the sudden change to our school experience.
 - Not for remote learning, not for teaching remotely, not for learning from home, not for mastering new technologies, not for varied access to learning materials

2. The humane option is the best option.

- - We are going to prioritize supporting each other as humans
 - We are going to prioritize simple solutions that make sense for the most
 - We are going to prioritize sharing resources and communicating clearly

3. We will remain flexible and adjust to the situation.

- - Nobody knows where this is going and what we'll need to adapt to next
 - Everybody (me included) needs support and understanding in these unusual times

(*Principles borrowed and adapted from Chapel Hill University)

4. Since everything is online, you will need to make extra time and give extra attention to **READING information and instructions.**

So start by reading the syllabus details carefully.

Contact Me

My Preferred Method is email: scott.eckert@gcccd.edu

If you contact me between Monday at 8am to Friday at 4pm, I will respond within 24 hours. (weekend are hit or miss).

Email Protocol:

- Every email must have a SUBJECT header starting with "176 ..."
- Every email must have your full name in the email. Some students have unusual email address names, and I can't tell who is writing me.

You may also message me in Canvas. Canvas messaging is NOT the best, but it does work for somethings that are quick and simple.

I have a phone at my college office: 619-660-4373, but with the shut-down I am rarely at the office.

I answer to: Mr E., Mr Eckert, Teacher, Instructor, or Professor.

My office location on campus : H-132 (which is a moot point since we are doing everything remotely.)

STUDENT ASSISTANCE HOURS

I will have a zoom session open for you to pop by during theses time:

(Use this link to open zoom or use this address: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/6196604373?pwd=dTR0K3dJQmRnWlRvZEVyVDUwMXFEZz09>.

It may require a password = abc123).

Also you can schedule a visit with me (best practice) by [opening this link](#) or by using this address: <https://CuyamacaCollege-ScottEckert-StudentHelpVisit.as.me/>

- Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30
- Friday from 2:30 to 4:30

If you know in advance that you want to visit I would appreciate an email to let me know at scott.eckert@gcccd.edu or even better set up an

appointment to meet <https://CuyamacaCollege-ScottEckert-StudentHelpVisit.as.me/>

But you are free to drop by without any contact. I am here for you.




REQUIRED Materials

- A TI-84(83) Plus graphing calculator (actually any kind of GRAPHING calculator will do). It is required, so go buy, rent, loan or borrow one. I use a TI84 in class, so I can teach you that one. I know a new one is kind of pricey, but once you get one it will last you all the way through college.
- An access code for the homework website called Knewton (also required). It cost about \$40, so save up for that right away. You will have homework assignments to work on the very first day, so don't delay on getting the money together for this purchase. There is a 2 week grace period which you can use if necessary to get started, but after the 2 weeks your access is blocked and I do not see your grades until you purchase.
- A digital version of the textbook. It is required but it is **FREE** assuming you got a computer, tablet, or phone. [It is an OpenStax free book which you can find at this link](#) . I recommend that you download the PDF so you can view the book on your device when you are offline. If you are old school and want a physical book, [you can buy one online with this link](#) .

Schedule

The schedule from week to week will appear in our regular announcements.

[But this link will download a PDF document that shows the plan for the whole semester.](#) 

I suggest you print this document and put it in your binder.

See at end of the doc.

Assessment and Grading

Activities assessed in class include:

- Knewton Alta computer homework assignments which is the bulk of your homework.
- Paper & Pencil homework problems often based on the book homework problems.
- Classwork & Group work assignments or activities.
- Pre-reading assessments where you answer questions or solve problems after you have read the new material BUT before you come to class.
- Affective Support assignments which are short video or reading assignments with some follow-up reflective writing.
- Discussion assignment where you will post question and replies to other students in your group on the discussion board.
- Class participation
- Quizzes
- Tests
- Final Exam

Because we have switched to a remote teaching situation, I have changed the weight of the grade categories. More weight is placed on the day-to-day work and I have reduced the weight of the test and final. In my traditional class the tests and final make up 70% of the grade. But for our class now they account for 55%.

The category percents are as follows:

- 15% for the Final Exam
- 40% for all the tests
- 25% for Knewton Alta computer homework
- 10% for Paper & Pencil assignments
- 10% for Discussion posting, group work, affective support assignments, pre-read work and class activities

The Big Three

Kewton Alta is an adaptive software homework system. It as a learning algorithm, so when you show that you are doing well with the homework it will move you along with less problems. If you show that you are not understanding the work by missing answers then Alt will introduce new more fundamental problems to help you build up your weak areas, but this will make your assignment a bit longer. SO ... don't try to "game the system". If you just get it wrong really fast so that Alta will show you the answer, it will show you the answer but it will add more basic problems to your assignment because it thinks you need extra help. The best strategy with Alta when you are not sure how to work a problem is to click **MORE INSTRUCTION** before you do the work. Learn first and then try the homework problem.

Tests still make up the biggest part of your grade. The tests are timed for 1 hour and will occur during our normal class times. Sometimes they will be computerized problems like Alta problems and sometimes they will be paper and pencil test where you upload a picture of the test into Canvas. You will be on **the honor system** during these test. I am trusting that you will study all the material and learn it well so that at test time you can take the test on your own without help form the internet, a friend, books or notes. Eventually, classes will move back to the classroom (hopefully next semester). By training yourself to take test on the honor system, then you will be best prepared for future classes that are giving traditional tests again.

Lastly, the **final exam** is comprehensive. Its questions come from any part of the whole course; however, I don't select the hardest problems. I will select problems that are average difficulty and similar to past test questions.

It is timed for 2 hours and your scheduled final exam day is shown on the class schedule. To earn a C or better in the class a student must earn an overall grade of C or better AND a D or better on the final exam.

POLICIES for Grading

GRADE CREDITS and EXCEPTIONS

I realize bad days happen, things go wrong or you just can't get to the assignment. Here are some grading policy exceptions:

- 1) You get 3% added back into the Book HW+Quiz category. So if you get a bad quiz score and forget to turn in a homework assignment it won't hurt your score. (Up to 100% max.)
- 2) You get 3% added back to Knewton Alta HW assignments. (Up to 100% max.)
- 3) You get 3% added back into the Pre-Read Work+Writing+Discussion category. If something goes wrong and you can't complete or miss a few of these, you don't have to worry because there is no penalty for those 2 times.. (Credit value is based on the avg assignment values).
- 4) If you get a bad test score, you can replace it with your final exam score. You will want a good final exam score for this to work, and you must meet these 2 conditions:
(A) good attendance – missing less than 15 hours,
(B) 75% average on book work and quiz category before credits are added.
- 5) If you receive less than a 60% on the final, your overall grade can be at best a "D" or "F".

Resources

We've got you covered!

Faculty (including me), counselors, student tutors, and more are ready to help you reach your educational goals. We can help you with your course schedule, choosing classes, finding student aid, studying skills, locating and using sources for an essay--you name it, we have someone who can help. To locate the service you need, see the services listed below. Don't see what you're looking for? No problem. Just call the Student Help Desk at 619-660-4395.



What's my role?

As your course instructor, I am your first contact for help you need in this course. If something doesn't make sense, sounds confusing, or you'd just like more information, let me know. Use that Canvas Inbox or email we talked about. If you're having difficulty using Canvas, let me know. But if Canvas stops working for some reason or you're experiencing technical issues, please see Canvas Assistance below.

Important Dates

For important dates related to our short-term class, please see the [Academic Calendar](#) portion of the Cuyamaca website.

Canvas Assistance

New to Canvas? Check out the [Canvas help for students](#). 24/7 support is available for Canvas. Call Canvas for help at 1-844-592-2205. If it is a weekday when the college is open, you can contact the [Cuyamaca College Help Desk](#) at 619-660-4395 or email at c-helpdesk@gcccd.edu. For help on campus, visit the Tech Mall in room E-121.

Tutoring Services

Cuyamaca tutoring has gone remote! Services include appointments via zoom video, phone, or you can book a paper or question drop-off. For more information and to book appointments for tutoring, please visit the [tutoring center website](#).

Accommodations

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please identify yourself to me and to Disabled Students Programs & Services staff so that the appropriate accommodations can be ensured. If you suspect you have a learning disability or need services for any other type of disability, contact the [Disabled Students Programs & Services \(DSPS\) Office](#), A-113, at the Student Services One-Stop Center or call (619) 660-4239.

Course Description and SLO's

Math 176 - PRECALCULUS: FUNCTIONS AND GRAPHS

Preparation for calculus: polynomial, absolute value, radical, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions and their graphs; analytic geometry, polar coordinates. *Maximum of 7 units can be earned for successfully completing any combination of MATH 170, 175, 176.*

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Use analytical, numerical, and graphical methods to solve pre-calculus level problems.
2. Solve multi-disciplinary application problems and interpret the results in context.

| Wk | Day | Date | Sect | Notes | Wk | Day | Date | Sect | Notes | Wk | Day | Date | Sect | Notes | | |
|----|-----|------|--------------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | Mon | 2/1 | Introduction | | 2 | Mon | 2/8 | 2.1 | | 3 | Mon | 2/15 | HOLIDAY | | | |
| | | | 1.1 | | | | | 2.2 | | | | | | | Washington's | |
| | | | 1.2 | | | | | 2.3 | | | | | | | Birthday | |
| | Wed | 2/3 | AS | | | Wed | 2/10 | 3.1 | | | Wed | 2/17 | 3.1 | | | |
| | | | 1.3 | | | Review | | | | 3.2 | | | | | | |
| | | | 1.4 | 2.1 SB | | Quiz | | | | 3.3 | Skill Bld. | | | | | |
| | Fri | 2/5 | 1.4 | | Fri | 2/12 | | Drop w/ Refund? | | Fri | 2/19 | 3.3 | | | | |
| | | | 2.1 | | | | | | | | 3.3 | DQ Part | | | | |
| 4 | Mon | 2/22 | 3.4 | | 5 | Mon | 3/1 | Review | | 6 | Mon | 3/8 | 4.3 | | | |
| | | | 3.5 | | | | | 4.1 | | | | | 5.0 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Test | Ch 1,2,3 | | | | | | | |
| | Wed | 2/24 | 3.5 | | | Wed | 3/3 | 4.1 | | | Wed | 3/10 | 5.1 | | | |
| | | | 3.6 | | | 4.2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Fri | 2/26 | 3.7 | | Fri | 3/5 | 4.2 | Pass/NP | | Fri | 3/12 | 5.1 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 4.3 | Grade? | | | | 5.2 | | | | | |
| 7 | Mon | 3/15 | 5.2 | | 8 | Mon | 3/22 | Review | | 9 | Mon | 3/29 | HOLIDAY | | | |
| | | | 5.3 | | | | | 6.1 | | | | | | | | |
| | Wed | 3/17 | 5.3 | | | Wed | 3/24 | Test | Ch 4,5 | | | Wed | 3/31 | Spring Break | | |
| | | | 5.6 | | | | | 6.1 | | | | | | | | |
| | Fri | 3/19 | 5.6 | | Fri | 3/26 | 6.2 | | | Fri | 4/2 | | | | | |
| 10 | Mon | 4/5 | 6.3 | | 11 | Mon | 4/12 | 6.7 | | 12 | Mon | 4/19 | 7.2 | | | |
| | | | 6.4 | | | | | 7.0 | | | | | | | | |
| | Wed | 4/7 | 6.4 | | | Wed | 4/14 | Review | | | Wed | 4/21 | 7.3 | | | |
| | | | 6.5 | | | | | 7.1 | | | | | 7.3 | | | |
| | Fri | 4/9 | 6.6 | | Fri | 4/16 | Test | Ch 6 | | Fri | 4/23 | 7.3 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 7.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Mon | 4/26 | 7.4 | | 14 | Mon | 5/3 | 8.2 | | 15 | Mon | 5/10 | Test | Ch 8 | | |
| | | | 8.1 | | | | | 8.3 | | | | | 9.1 | | | |
| | Wed | 4/28 | Review | | | Wed | 5/5 | 8.3 | | | Wed | 5/12 | 9.1 | | | |
| | | | 8.1 | | | | | | | | | | 9.2 | | | |
| | Fri | 4/30 | Test | Ch 7 | Fri | 5/7 | Review | | Fri | 5/14 | 9.3 | | | | | |
| | | | 8.2 | DROP? | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Mon | 5/17 | 9.3 | | 17 | Mon | 5/24 | Review | | 18 | Mon | 5/31 | HOLIDAY | | | |
| | | | 9.5 | | | | | 10.8 | | | | | | Memorial Day | | |
| | | | | | | | | Test | Ch 9,10 | | | | | Finals Week | | |
| | Wed | 5/19 | 10.1 | | | Wed | 5/26 | 10.8 | | | Wed | 6/2 | no classes | | | |
| | | | | | | Review | | | | Optional Review | | | | | | |
| | Fri | 5/21 | 10.2 | | Fri | 5/28 | Review | | Fri | 6/4 | Final Exam .. OR .. | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Mon | 6/7 | Final Exam | | | | | |