

ALGEBRA II COURSE SYLLABUS
SMITH PREP FALL TERM 2009
INSTRUCTOR: Matt West

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WEB PAGE: Any resources that are needed will be in the Training Series section of my webpage (<http://www.ProfWest.com>).

CLASS HOURS: 9:00-11:00 THU

A. DESCRIPTION

This course is a primer on Algebra II. WE WILL NOT COVER THE ENTIRE BOOK. The teacher has determined the subjects are most necessary to cover, and those are the topics we will cover. If there is an area that you feel we need to cover, please see me during the first month and I will try to make sure it is included.

B. ORGANIZATION

If you are taking this course for credit, you cannot miss more than three days. If you are not taking this course for credit, but rather just want to learn, you may miss as often as you feel it necessary.

C. GRADING PLAN

1. Homework	substitution up to 10%
2. Chapter Tests	70%
3. Final Cumulative Exam	30%

HOMEWORK:

Homework will be given each class. I generally give homework where the answers are in the back. You will be graded each day on completion. Correctness is not necessary, but if I suspect that you are not trying, I reserve the right to grade the homework for its correctness. My main goal with homework is to make sure that you understand the material. If your participation rate in the homework is greater than your lowest test grade, we will substitute your homework grade for that lowest test grade.

TESTS:

There will be a test every other week, beginning September 3. That totals 7 tests. Each test will be problems just like the homework. If you understand the homework, you will do well on the test. The top 6 test scores will count.

FINAL EXAM:

There will be a final cumulative exam on December 17. You will have material sent home with each test that will detail the material that will be on the exam.

D. YOUR IDEAS, EVALUATIONS, ETC.

In general, your ideas, comments, suggestions, questions, grade challenges, etc. are welcome. Your discretion in these matters is expected, however. No part of your grade will be based on anything other than your coursework. I will attempt to teach the material and be very clear about what is on each test or quiz. If there is anything you do not understand or do not feel was made clear, I would love to work with you.

E. SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

For most students this will not be a "difficult" course. If you do the work assigned each night and understand it, you will be set for success. If you decide to not do your work or merely go through the motions and do not understand it, you could find yourself with a very difficult class. If you do not understand the homework one evening, call or email me, so I can help you with it.

August 20, 2009—Basic Review and Establishing of Baseline

August 27, 2009—Solving Equations, Absolute Value, Inequalities, and Compound & Absolute Value Inequalities

September 3, 2009—Test on Chapter 1, Relations, Functions, and Slope

September 10, 2009—Linear and Special Functions, Writing, Graphing, and Modeling Real World Data

September 17, 2009—Test on Chapter 2, Solving Systems of Equations and Linear Programming Algebraically

September 24, 2009—Solving Equalities and Inequalities by Graphing, Solving systems with three variables

October 1, 2009—Test on Chapter 3. Introduce, Identify, Operate, and Inverse Matrices

October 8, 2009—Multiplying, Transforming, and Using Matrices. Determinants and Cramer's Rule.

October 22, 2009—Test on Chapter 4. Monomials and Polynomials; Dividing and Factoring.

October 29, 2009—Roots, Radicals, Rational Exponents, Inequalities, and Complex Numbers.

November 5, 2009—Test on Chapter 5. Quadratic Equations

November 12, 2009—Analyzing graphs and completing the square.

November 19, 2009—Test on Chapter 6. Polynomials, graphing polynomials.

December 3, 2009—Remainder and factor theories, zero theorem, roots, inverse functions, square root functions.

December 10, 2009—Test on Chapter 7. Review for the Final Exam.

December 17, 2009—Final Cumulative Exam