South Plains College
Department of Mathematics & Engineering
Math 0315.213/214 – Beginning Algebra
Course Syllabus – Fall 2017

Instructor: Gina Becker, BSE, M Ed
Email: gbecker@southplainscollege.edu
Scheduled Class Time: TR 3:30 – 5:15 TR 5:20-6:55
Office Hours: TR 3:00-3:30 (or by appointment)

Textbook: *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra*, Sullivan/Struve/Mazzarella, 4th Edition, Pearson Education ISBN 978-0-13-455607-9

Supplies: Notebook paper or spiral and pencils. Calculators are **not** allowed for Math 0315.

Course Goal: The purpose of this course is to provide a background in beginning algebra concepts necessary for MATH 0320.

Course Description: This course is designed for students who need MATH 0320. Topics include signed numbers, algebraic expressions, linear equations and inequalities in one unknown, and graphing. Time in a math lab is required. This course will not satisfy graduation requirements. This course is required if testing indicates a need.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies: Successful completion of this course should reflect mastery of the following objectives. Chapter and section numbers are indicated in parentheses.
1. Add, subtract, multiply and divide real numbers. (1.5)
2. Use the order of operations to simplify an expression. (1.7)
3. Simplify algebraic expressions. (1.8)
4. Solve linear equations. (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
5. Translate and solve word problems. (2.5, 2.6, 2.7)
6. Solve linear inequalities. (2.8)
7. Graph equations in two variables by the intercept method and the slope intercept method. (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)
8. Solve systems of equations by graphing, substitution, and elimination. (4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
9. Evaluate expressions using exponent rules. (5.2, 5.4)
10. Add, subtract, multiply and divide polynomials. (5.1, 5.3, 5.5)

11. Factor polynomials, (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5)
12. Solve quadratic equations by factoring. (6.6)

Course Requirements: To achieve success in this class, a student should attend all class meetings, take notes and participate in class, and complete all homework assignments and examinations, including the final examination.

Attendance Policy: Your attendance and active participation is vital to your success in this class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Should you arrive after attendance has been taken you will be marked as tardy for that class.   Two tardies will be considered as one absence. If you exceed 4 absences during the course of the semester, you may be dropped from this course with a grade of X or F.

Course Expectations: Attend class, be on time, do homework, and be prepared to participate. Turn off and put away all electronic devices when you enter the classroom and keep off for the duration of the class.

Assignments and Grading:
Homework, Classwork and Quizzes: Homework assignments will be given daily. Work the problems on lined notebook paper. Write the problem, show all work and clearly identify your answer. Late homework will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be assigned. Quizzes may be given at any time. The average for all homework, classwork and quizzes will account for 20% of the course grade.

Exams: Your course grade will include four unit exams, which will count as 60% of the grade and the final comprehensive exam, which will account for 20% of the course grade. Your final exam grade will take the place of your lowest exam grade, if it is a higher score.

Your final average will determine your letter grade for this class; determined by the following scale:

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

Tutoring: Students may obtain free tutoring in Building 2 at the Reese Center. Tutoring schedules will be posted on campus. Please remember to sign in when you seek the help of a tutor.

Equal Opportunity: South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age.

ADA Accommodation: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in Reese Center Building 8, 806-716-4675 or call or visit the Disability Services Office in the Student Health & Wellness Office, 806-716-2577.

Diversity and Learning Environment: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Classroom Civility: Students are expected to be respectful of their fellow classmates and maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices before entering the room. The instructor reserves the right to ask a student to leave if his/her cell phone is left on and disrupts the class. Refrain from using offensive language, reading newspapers, chewing tobacco products, or otherwise being disruptive in class. Food and/or drinks are NOT allowed in the classroom.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to uphold the ideas of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, collaborating with another student during a test, copying another student's work, using materials not authorized, and plagiarism. Students who do not follow the academic honesty policy will receive a grade of zero for the assignment, and may be dropped from the course with an F, or face possible suspension from the college. *Math apps, smart phones, smart watches and graphing calculators are not allowed in this class.*

Campus Concealed Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:

(http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php)

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Tuesday		Thursday	
1	**August 29**	Introduction 1.3	**August 31**	1.4/1.5
2	**September 5**	1.4/1.5	**September 7**	1.7
3	**September 12**	1.6/1.8	**September 14**	**Exam 1 (no calculator)**
4	**September 19**	2.1/2.2	**September 21**	2.3
5	**September 26**	2.4	**September 28**	2.8
6	**October 3**	3.1-3.4	**October 5**	**Exam 2 (no calculator)**
7	**October 10**	4.1/4.2/4.3	**October 12**	5.1
8	**October 17**	5.2/5.4	**October 19**	5.3
9	**October 24**	5.5/5.6	**October 26**	Review
10	**October 31**	**Exam 3**	**November 2**	6.1
11	**November 7**	6.2	**November 9**	6.3
12	**November 14**	6.4	**November 16**	Review
13	**November 21**	**Exam 4**	**November 23**	**No Class**
14	**November 28**	6.5/6.6	**November 30**	2.5
15	**December 5**	2.6/2.7	**December 7**	Review
16	**December 12 Final Exam**	**Sec 214 5:30-7:30**	**December 14 Final Exam**	**Sec 213 1:00- 3:00**