MATH 005: Introductory Algebra
Fall 2013
Syllabus subject to change.

Email
You can/will email your instructor at ma005mtlc@as.ua.edu. Put your instructor's name in the subject box or your email will/may not be opened because all Math 005 instructors will receive email at this address. If you have trouble with your crimson account, you can get help at the OIT help desk located in Gordon Palmer.

Prerequisites
No prerequisites found.

Office Hours
Office hours TBA during class meeting.

Course Description
Math 005 is an introductory level algebra course. Evaluation will be based on work in Knewton Math Readiness, attendance, tests, and a comprehensive final exam. This course is designed to equip students with the tools necessary to be successful in college-level mathematics courses. Mathematical readiness, confidence, and productive study habits will be improved after completing this course.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the conclusion of this course:

- Students will be able to understand and work with mathematics concepts such as factors and multiples, division, decimals, negative quantities, xy-plane, fractions, exponents, and properties of mathematics.
- Students will be able to solve equations, inequalities, and systems of equations.
- Students will be able to use ratios and rates to solve problems involving fractions, proportions, and percents.
- Students will be able to solve real world algebra problems using various algebra concepts.

Outline of Topics
Number System: factors and multiples, long division, decimals, negatives in the xy-plane, negative quantities, moving in the xy-plane, properties of mathematics, fractions and decimals, all about addition

Equations and Expressions: mathematical expressions, variables and operations, equivalent expressions, equations, inequalities on the number line, independent and dependent variables, tricks of equality, exponent rules, square and cube roots, solving linear equations, systems of linear equations, testing values, solving word problems, real world algebra

Ratios and Proportions: fraction division, fraction fundamentals, ratios and rates, ratio applications, percents, ratios and fractions, proportions

Functions: slope, linear equations

Knewton Math Readiness and MyLabsPlus
The primary form of instruction for this course is Knewton Math Readiness, a browser-based math course that provides targeted recommendations to each student on what to work on next. Your exams, review problems, and course gradebook are hosted by MyLabsPlus, which is the web-based system used by other MTLC courses.

Your Knewton lesson plan – which you will work on during nearly every class – is also your homework. You are encouraged to access Knewton outside class to continue your work toward mastery in each topic. If you are able to devote at least 5 hours per week outside of class working on Knewton’s lesson plan, you will set yourself up to remain on track to complete the course material in a timely fashion. Some students may require more time.

Within Knewton Math Readiness, you will periodically be asked to "Show Us What You Know" via a brief diagnostic quiz. Take these quizzes seriously; if you do well enough, they can allow you to place out of some lessons within the course.

Your Dashboard within Knewton Math Readiness provides your next recommended activity. While you are not required to follow this recommendation, it is beneficial to do so because this will allow you to take the fastest and most effective route through the course.

***However, note that these recommendations will not always match what is coming up on your next test. You will occasionally need to check your ALL Lessons page to ensure you are doing the lessons required of Test 1 and Test 2 ahead of the testing deadlines. If you have not yet unlocked a lesson that is going to be covered on an upcoming test, you can float your cursor over it to see what other lessons need to be completed before it will unlock. You can pick and choose any unlocked lesson to work on at any given time.***

An individualized course affords you the opportunity to work at your own pace, on the material that you are ready to learn. The material cannot rush ahead of you or move too slowly for you, because you control your progress, working both in class with your professor, and outside of class on your own and with the MTLC's staff of tutors. You will complete the course by taking the final exam when you are ready – when you have finished (“mastered”) each topic area (within guidelines of test deadlines).

When you arrive each day, each of you will log into your Knewton account and complete exercises. I will roam the room offering my assistance – you may ask me or any assistant about anything at any time when working on Knewton exercises.
Each lesson consists of several workshops, including video tutorials and practice problems, designed to help you build your understanding. When you feel ready to complete a lesson, you’ll need to pass its Test Your Skills assessment. If you do, you can move on to the next lesson; if not, you can re-take the test. If you miss the passing mark on a lesson’s test twice, you will be prescribed deeper review in Focus Mode. During Focus Mode, you will receive a new set of workshops and practice problems to catch you up on the background you need in order to be successful in the workshops of the main lesson. Only after completing Focus Mode will you then be permitted to take the Test Your Skills assessment again. ***If you fail your third Test Your Skills attempt after going through Focus Mode, it is your responsibility to communicate with your instructor or tutors in the MTLC so you can get one-on-one help on the topic. Once you have worked with your Instructor or tutors in the MTLC, you can continue trying to pass the Test Your Skills until you succeed.****

**Knewton Support**

Use the following email address for customer support from Knewton if you have difficulties with the Knewton Math Readiness program functioning properly:  UASupport@Knewton.com

**Logging Into Knewton and MyLabsPlus**

To access your Knewton and MyLabsPlus software, you will login to MyBama, then go to Blackboard Learn, then click on your Math 005 course. Here you will find links to Knewton and MyLabsPlus. The MyLabsPlus link will take you directly into the course software. The Knewton link will take you to a login page; Knewton will email you your Username and Password before the first class meeting. **OR** You may visit https://login.knewton.com to reach the Knewton login page directly; to access MyLabsPlus directly, go to www.ua.mylabsplus.com (which will redirect you to a login page; your MyLabsPlus username is your crimson email prefix, and your password is your CWID).

**Exams and Assignments**

**Test 1 (10%)--DEADLINE TUE 9/24--select topics from The Number System (factors and multiples, long division, decimals) AND Ratios & Proportions (ratio applications, ratios and rates, fraction division, percents, fraction fundamentals).**

**Test 2 (15%)--DEADLINE THUR 10/17--select topics from Equations and Expressions (variables and operations, mathematical expressions, equivalent expressions, testing values, equations, inequalities on the number line, independent and dependent variables, tricks of equality, real world algebra)**

**Test 3 (15%)--DEADLINES planned THUR 11/7 and 11/26--remaining topics (in modules, individualized to depend on your lesson sequence: {ratios and fractions, proportions, ratios & percents}, {properties of math, all about addition, fractions and decimals, solving word problems}, {exponent rules, square & cube roots}, {negatives in the xy plane, negative quantities, moving in the xy plane}, {slope, linear equations}, {solving linear equations, systems of linear equations}. Finish three modules by the first deadline, and all six by the second one.**

**Final Exam (30%)--Comprehensive on all material (Test 1 topics, Test 2 topics, and all remaining topics)** If you finish all of your major topics(33) in Knewton and take the Final Exam before Thanksgiving, you may retake the Final Exam one time if you did not score high enough on the 1st attempt to pass the class. You may take the Final Exam early in class when you have passed all 33 Knewton lessons.

**Knewton Math Readiness (25%)--ON TRACK grades (each week) and number of major topics you pass (Test Your Skills) out of 33 during the semester (cutoff date is 12/6).**

**Attendance** (5%)--You will swipe your Student ACT Card as you enter the MTLC for class and swipe again as you leave the MTLC. You will also sign attendance sheets. If you stay the appropriate time for class, you will receive attendance credit for that class meeting.

Tests will be taken in MyLabsPlus test environment **ONLY** during any of our class meetings. Tests are 1 hour in length.

You will take the Final Exam during the week Sunday 12/8 - Friday 12/13, unless you choose to take it early in class.

Knewton Math Readiness work will be completed in a varying lesson order that depends on demonstrated skills. Knewton displays an **ON TRACK** flag, but (especially near the end of the course) this is NOT the same as the MA005 On Track grade. During class you will do Knewton work and take tests. Your instructor and a tutor will be roaming around the classroom to help/assist you with questions or concerns. Note that it is your responsibility to ensure you finish the topics covered in the Tests and the Final Exam in time for each of these assessments.

In order to stay **ON TRACK** (actually a little ahead of pace) you will need to pass (70% or better on Test Your Skills) approximately 3 lessons per week. This will keep you ON TRACK and also allow you to be ready for your Tests and the Final Exam ahead of the deadlines. At this pace, you will be able to take the Final Exam before Thanksgiving and be allowed to retake it if you are not yet passing after taking the Final Exam. **(If you only average 2 lessons per week, you will NEVER be ON TRACK).** See the gradebook name of each week’s ON TRACK point for the number of lessons you must have passed to earn the point. Lessons will be counted early Saturday.

**Test Rules in Class**

1. You may use only the Casio FX-260-Student (available at the University bookstores) or the calculator that is available on the computer. Using another calculator (or any other electronic device) is considered academic misconduct.
2. You will receive a testing paper before you begin your test. You will be given a password for your test.
3. Raise your hand when finished to have your test submitted by the instructor or assistant.
4. Scratch paper will be provided. None of your paper is allowed. All scratch paper will be turned in.
5. Begin your Test/Final Exam within the first 5-10 minutes of class.

Grading Policy
--You will PASS this course and move on to your next math class if your semester average is 70% or better.
--You will NOT PASS this course and need to repeat this course if your semester average is less than 70%.
--Wednesday, 10/30 is the last day to drop this class with a W. No withdrawals after this date.

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework
You will be allowed (and are encouraged!) to complete work ahead of schedule and also to take Tests and the Final Exam ahead of schedule. I expect you to take tests within the week after you have completed the lessons covered by the test. If you know you are going to miss class or classes due to matters out of your control, you will be expected to be working ahead of schedule to allow for this.

You will be allowed to make up a Test after its deadline only if you have filed a PETITION with a verifiable, documented excuse, and the petition has been approved. Petitions can be filed at mtlc.ua.edu.

Attendance Policy
We will meet in the MTLC (located at B5 Tutwiler Hall) every Tuesday and Thursday. Attendance is mandatory.
Each class meeting counts the same weight toward your attendance grade, which is 5% of your overall grade.
You will swipe your student card as you enter the MTLC and again as you leave the MTLC. This records your attendance. You may also be asked to sign an attendance sheet. If you stay the appropriate class time, you will receive attendance credit for that day. If you take the Final Exam early and have a passing grade afterwards, you will be given credit for all future attendance and ON TRACK grades for the remaining portion of the semester.

Required Texts
UA Supply Store Textbook Information

- PEARSON MYMATHLAB STAND ALONE ACCESS CODE
- Casio FX-260 Student Calculator (found in the bookstore)

Bring the Unopened Pearson Access Code with you to the first class meeting. You can purchase a Pearson Access Code at the campus bookstore, or online from the publisher. This is your payment for access to both Knewton Math Readiness for assignments and MyLabsPlus for gradebook, review problems, and tests.

There is no actual textbook for this course (though the MA100 textbook is available, along with all its instructional materials, online in the MyLabsPlus course); if you know you will want a paper textbook when you take MA100, you can buy the MA100 package now. Within the Knewton platform, each topic area has its own set of instructional material including instructional videos, worked exercises, and practice problems. Knewton can be accessed at any time via an active internet browser.

Other Course Materials
Calculators: You may use the Casio FX-260 Calculator or the “computer calculator” on tests/exams, but not a graphing calculator or cell phone calculator.

Extra Credit Opportunities
There are no opportunities for extra credit. Stay ON TRACK!

Working From Home
No extensions or allowances will be given to students because of issues with home computers or the internet. The MTLC is open for your use to get assistance with your math work and also to provide you with computers if you need. Math 005 course work can be done on your personal computers. Internet access is required in order to reach the website where homework and help topics are located.

MTLC Info
1. Located in B1/B5 Tutwiler.
2. Hours:
   - Sunday: 6pm-9pm; Mon-Thu: 8am-10pm; Fri: 8am-4:45 pm (unless otherwise informed)
3. Closed:
   - Labor Day 9/1 and 9/2
   - Fall Break 10/31 thru 11/3
   - Thanksgiving 11/26 4:45pm thru 12/1
4. Last day for help in the MTLC is Friday, 12/6

MTLC Rules
1. The MTLC is a math classroom. Please be quiet during your visit to the MTLC.
2. Cell phones, food, drinks, tobacco products, and companions are NOT allowed. A cell phone violation will cause your cell phone to be detained until you leave the MTLC. Your cell phone needs to be out of sight/silent.
3. No activities such as surfing the Internet, games, typing papers, sleeping, etc., are allowed in the MTLC.
4. Computer use in the MTLC is on a first-come first-serve basis (other than scheduled class meetings).
5. Please do not hesitate to ask questions in the MTLC. Staff members are there for you!!
Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED—faculty, staff and students (sign up at myBama)
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisories are broadcast via WUOA/WVUA-TV, which can be viewed across Central Alabama. Also, visit wvuatv.com for up-to-the-minute weather information. A mobile Web site is also available for your convenience.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Visit wvuatv.com for up-to-the-minute weather information. A mobile Web site is also available for your convenience.
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
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Severe Weather Protocol

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar, sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Weather advisories are broadcast via WUOA/WVUA-TV, which can be viewed across Central Alabama. Also, visit wvuatv.com for up-to-the-minute weather information. A mobile Web site is also available for your convenience.