

# **Elementary Algebra with Applications**

## **Course Guide for Online and Independent Study**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Course Number: 804 –110                  Credits: 3                  Room: 107

Meeting Times:                                  Completion Date: July 13, 2006

ASC Hours:                  Monday – Thursday    8:00 – 12:00

Instructor: Pete Esser  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students taking Elementary Algebra perform basic algebraic operations. They solve and graph linear equations. They solve and graph inequalities. Students factor algebraic equations. They solve radical and rational equations. Students solve quadratic equations. In each topic area, students solve application problems.

### **COURSE COMPETENCIES:**

1. Perform basic algebraic operations
2. Solve linear equations and inequalities
3. Graph linear equations
4. Perform operations with algebraic terms
5. Factor equations
6. Solve rational equations
7. Solve and graph systems of equations
8. Solve radical equations
9. Solve quadratic equations

### **TEXTBOOK & SUPPLIES:**

Math XL Student Stand-Alone 12-month Access Kit 2/E or  
ValuePack - Math XL & text Elementary Algebra Concepts and Applications, Bittinger & Ellenbogen, 7th Edition.

Scientific Calculator is required (TI 25 or higher recommended)

Algebra Online Web Site: <http://www.swtc.edu:8082/courses/algebra>  
<http://www.mathxl.com>

### **PROGRESSION THROUGH THE COURSE:**

You have two options to get the information required for this course.

1. Students who prefer an entirely electronic course will purchase the Math XL Student Stand-Alone 12-month Access Kit 2/E. It is available from the [SWTC Bookstore](#) for approximately \$30.00
2. Students who prefer to study with a hardcopy textbook will purchase the ValuePack, from the SWTC Bookstore (approximately \$110.00). This package consists of the Textbook ( Elementary Algebra Concepts and Applications, Bittinger & Ellenbogen, 7th Edition), the Math XL 12-month Student Coupon 2/E, and the Digital Video Tutor 7/E which contains video lessons on CD.

No matter which option you choose you will have to access Math XL to complete this course.

When you get the Math XL Student Stand-Alone Kit or the ValuePack from the bookstore, you will find instructions for getting started with Math XL, an access code, etc. Follow the directions in the materials you receive to establish your Math XL account.

Go to <http://www.mathxl.com>

Select the **Getting Started** button, and look through the **For Students** information.

Select the **Register** button, and follow the instructions. Your school zip code is **53809**.

**Students taking this course, work independently to master the topics in each chapter of the textbook.**

Basic Course Sequence

1. Sign into [Math XL](#) and Check your calendar
2. Select the Chapter and the Section from the Study Plan button
3. Select the first objective and the Section Overview should appear
4. Play the section video if desired (Play it from the CD if you purchased the Value-Pack)
5. Select the first Exercise
6. Read the section from the Textbook Pages button (Read it in the hardcopy text if you purchased it)
7. If available, work at least 3 exercises for each objective in the section. (Some sections may have less than three exercises) (If you purchased the textbook, notice these exercises coordinate with those in your book.)

If you need help with an exercise, try the buttons to the right. Notice the key pad to the left for entering special functions like fractions, powers or roots.

Work on an exercise until it has a green check mark. If after three tries you have a red check mark, select Similar Exercise to try again. Complete at least 3 exercises for each objective if available.

8. To move to the next objective, select Section Overview at the top. From the drop down menu choose the next objective on the list. The exercises for that objective will be highlighted in yellow. You may want to choose exercises that have video animations or clips. Remember to complete at least 3 exercises for each objective if available.
9. When you have completed all the sections for a chapter, take the Sample Test. Access it from the Take a Test button.
10. When you have completed the Sample Test, Click the Study Plan button and select All Sections. Complete more exercises for the objectives that are identified as needing more study.
11. When take Graded Test. Access it from the Take a Test button.
12. Move on to the next Chapter.

If you have any question about any part of this course PLEASE ASK!

## **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

1. Open enrollment courses will last 16 "school weeks" beginning with the official registration date of the student. (Your instructor will inform you of the exact ending date for the course.) Open enrollment is not an option during summer session.
2. If you register within the first two weeks of the Fall or Spring semester, the course will finish at the end of that semester. If you have not completed the course, you could get an incomplete (I) only if you have completed 80% of the course material and if you have put forth significant effort as determined by the instructor of record.
3. If you register more than two weeks into the semester, you will receive an in-progress (IP) and be given appropriate time in the following semester or summer session to finish the course. For example, if you register at the 9-week mark (halfway through the Fall semester), you would then be given 9 weeks in the Spring semester to complete the course. Late registration will mean a diminished or no refund period.
4. Registration for a given semester stops when the registration for the following semester begins. For example, if you enroll in a course on December 1<sup>st</sup>, you will be registered for the Spring semester. Your course officially begins on the first day of the Spring semester (early January) and ends at the time of the last class meeting in the Spring semester. (Your instructor will inform you of the exact ending date for the course.)

In a situation like this, you are free to get the course materials (textbook, etc) and begin to review them. However, your instructor will not begin grading tests or assignments until the semester officially begins.

For purposes of this open enrollment option the following applies:

Registration for Spring semester begins in early November

Registration for Summer session begins in early April

Registration for Fall semester begins the first day of Summer session (early June)

5. You can expect to have contact with your instructor during the official Fall and Spring semesters and during the 6-week Summer session. Do not expect to have contact with your instructor when SWTC is not in session.

## **TIPS AND POLICIES FOR SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE:**

1. Get started immediately after your initial meeting with your instructor. Procrastination is the single biggest reason for poor performance in independent study courses. Be aware of the deadline for completing the course.
2. Set a pace for yourself that will allow you to finish the course on time. If you have 9 chapters to complete and 16 weeks to get them done, then you should be completing a chapter every week and a half. Even if it only takes you one day to do a chapter, don't wait until the last 9 days to start working.
3. Ask questions when you don't understand. Take advantage of the communication resources: answer keys, instructor email and whiteboard contact, discussion with other students, ASC instructors.
4. Be honest with yourself. If you do a problem and check your answer and you find you got it right then you probably understand that problem. However, if you get a problem wrong, don't just say "Oh I know how to do it now." Find out why you got it wrong.
5. Spend a reasonable amount of time on each question. Some problems will be easy for you and you will finish them quickly. Other problems may take a little more effort. Don't give up too soon. On the other hand, don't spend hours on a single question. If you have given it your best effort, move on to another problem and come back to it later or ask your instructor for help.

## ADA Statement

Attention Students With Disabilities! If you require an accommodation for your disability, please contact the Office of the Support Services Specialist, in Student Services or call (800) 362-3322, Ext. 2631. Hearing impaired may call using the following TTY/TDD number - (608) 822-2072 or e-mail [accom@swtc.edu](mailto:accom@swtc.edu).

Refer to the Student Handbook for further details.

## EVALUATION:

Chapter Exercises, Sample Tests – These assignments will not figure directly into your grade. However it is essential that you do the work. Skipping the book work will negatively impact performance on the chapter tests.

Tests - Your final score will be determined by the average of your chapter tests. Chapter tests may be taken once. There are approximately 20 to 30 questions.

Comprehensive Final - You will take a comprehensive final exam covering material from all 9 chapters. The final exam counts the same as a chapter test.

Final Score - Final Score is the average of all 10 Test Scores (9 Chapter Tests and 1 Final Exam)

Grading Scale	100% - 90%	=	A
	89% - 80%	=	B
	79% - 70%	=	C
	69% - 60%	=	D
	Below 60%	=	F