

Math 105

Things to Think About

EXPECT TO WORK. Math 105 is designed to be academically rigorous, intellectually challenging, and fair. It will require time and energy outside of class to read the text and practice the skills presented. Generally, when students work hard, good grades follow. However, the relationship between effort and grades is not perfect; in other words, effort alone does not produce a high grade. Your grade will reflect your ability to apply the skills learned to new situations and your work on exams and quizzes.

EXPECT TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE CLASS. You are developing a set of personal habits and attitudes that will shape your professional life. To be an effective student, you must be enthusiastic about what you are doing. I expect your work and classroom participation to reflect a level of creativity and risk taking. This means, among other things, if you have never been an active participant in discussions that you make a commitment to increase your level of participation. Look for ways to use questions and assignments to help deepen your understanding of algebraic concepts.

EXPECT TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. While I do not think that this class is, or should be, the center of your universe, attendance and active participation in class are important. Some of you will face personal situations during this semester that will rightfully demand more attention than this class, and will not allow you to be physically and/or mentally in class. Whenever possible, accommodations that are fair to you (and the other students) will be made if I am informed in a timely manner. Throughout your career, you will face minor and major hardships; how you respond to difficulties in your life right now will play a huge role in determining your effectiveness later on in life.

EXPECT TO BE A “STUDENT”. It is my responsibility to lay a foundation for understanding the math skills needed in future classes. I encourage you to come to this class to learn. To that end: turn off your cell phone while in class; do not come to class while eating your breakfast or lunch; do not come to class to sleep; develop your sense of humor; enjoy learning and school. There are few things worse than hating what you do. If you do not enjoy learning and the challenges of being a student, then do yourself and many other people a favor and reconsider your need for a higher education.

EXPECT PREPARATION TIME. For both a student and a teacher, there is no substitute for preparation. I expect you to stay current in your readings and assignments. Doing homework means completing all of the assigned problems and reviewing previous material before coming to class. You should plan to spend at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour you spend in class. Don't be surprised if some assignments require more time.

EXPECT TO DO YOUR OWN WORK. As a college student, you should be very familiar with the requirements of academic integrity. Although discussing ideas from the class with others is both productive and encouraged, I expect answers on your assignments to be your own independent work. Students who cheat on written work will meet with disciplinary action, including but not limited to a failing grade in the course. For further information, consult the MSU-B student handbook (available online at the MSU-B home page).

EXPECT TO BE TREATED RESPECTFULLY. Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning, or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Please meet with DSS staff to verify your eligibility for any classroom accommodations and for academic assistance related to your disability. Disability Support Services is located in the Academic Support Center