

ECON 1078-001

Math Tools for Economists I

Fall 2003

Instructor: Collin Starkweather

Lecture Time: MWF 12:00–12:50

Classroom: EDUC 231

Office: ECON 12

Office Hours: MW 8:00–9:00am and by appointment. One additional office hour will be scheduled at a time to be determined the first week of class.

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Class home page: <http://rintintin.colorado.edu/~olsonco>

Course Description

This course is meant to give you the beginning tools that you will need to further your development as an economist. It is the first course in a two-course sequence. The course will be divided into two parts. The first part will provide you with some preliminaries such as algebraic operations, equations, graphs and functions, and the exponential and logarithmic functions. In the second, we will focus on additional tools in economics such as systems of linear equations, matrices, linear inequalities, and probabilities. After completing this course you will be prepared to take the second course in the sequence that will focus mainly on Calculus. After completing this sequence you will have the tools to better understand the mathematical framework which is the language of economics.

Textbooks

1. *Required:* Essentials of College Mathematics, 3rd edition, by Raymond A. Barnett and Michael R. Ziegler.
2. *Optional:* Student Solutions Manual for Essentials of College Mathematics, 3rd edition.
3. A scientific calculator is required for this course.

Grading

Two midterms and a final will be administered. One of the midterms or the homework grade may be dropped.

There will be between 6 and 8 homeworks or quizzes administered which will determine your homework grade. Homeworks will be collected or quizzes will be given on Fridays. You will not be given prior notice as to whether homework will be collected or a quiz will be given; however, if you have done your homework and you

understand the problems, you *will* do well on any given quiz. One homework or quiz grade will be dropped to compute your overall homework grade.

The two highest grades you receive of the midterms and the homework grade will each comprise 30% of your grade. The final exam will comprise 35% of your grade and class participation will comprise the remaining 5%.

The dates of the exams will be announced at least ten days prior to the exam date both in class and via group e-mail.

Suggestions

- Practice the homework questions. If you understand the homework, you will do well on the exams.
- Work collaboratively. Talk to your classmates. If you do not know any of your classmates, introduce yourself. I will gladly help you if you do not understand something, but often it is interaction with your peers that will produce the best results.
- Keep up with the work. If you get too far behind in your reading and other preparation, you will stay behind.

General Policies

- It is your responsibility to check your e-mail regularly and keeping up with all milestones for the class. You are responsible for making sure that you supply the correct e-mail address. Your instructor is *not* responsible for proper delivery of e-mail to your inbox.
- Your education is your responsibility. When you join the work force, you will be expected to be proactive in managing your time and your career. Treat this class no differently. If you are having problems, I will be happy to assist you; however, you need to take the initiative to contact me.
- No make-up exams will be given and no late homework will be accepted. *No exceptions.* Make-ups for the final exam will only be scheduled in the most extenuating of circumstances and you will be expected to be able to provide supporting documentation concerning those circumstances.
- The college will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should notify the Counselor for Students with Disabilities, Disability Services Office, located in Willard 322 (phone 303-492-8671) and their instructors of any special needs. Instructors should be notified the first day of classes.