## Math 124 - College Algebra with Applications, Spring 2020
## Course Syllabus Alterations

**Virtual Office hours:** I will be available for virtual face-to-face office hours using Google Hangouts Meet. You can access Google Hangouts Meet using either a computer or a smart phone.
From computer: Log into your WVU account (the one associated with your mix.wvu.edu email address), and visit meet.google.com. Then click "Join or start a meeting."
From phone: Download the app. It is called "Hangouts Meet by Google" for iPhones, and is called "Hangouts Meet" for Android. When you open the app, you MUST sign in with your mix.wvu.edu email address. Then hit "Enter a meeting code."
In both cases, the meeting code you will use will be TechMathLeary. If you are not logged into Google with your mix email address, you will not be able to access the meeting!

I will be available on Hangouts Meet using that meeting code during the following times:
Mon 1-2, Tues 11-12, Wed 2-3, Thurs 12-1, Friday 12-1

I will be available to all math students for online help Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 7pm using the meeting code TechMathHelp. Other professors will also have hours open to all students, and I will post them on the course website when I know them. Additionally, I'm willing to have virtual meetings by appointment if you let me know at least a day in advance when you would like to meet.

**Course website:** It is more important than ever that you check the course website regularly! Course information will be posted on eCampus, and also at community.wvu.edu/∼bal0018/math124S20.html Course announcements and/or assignments may be posted on the website or sent via email. Please be sure to check the website regularly, and to regularly check the email address you have on record. You are responsible for any information posted on the course website.

**Grading:** Due to the uncertainty about how the rest of the course will go, I will be much more understanding with how I determine your final grade. It will still be based on homework, quizzes, attendance in the first half of the course, four exams during the semester, and the final exam. However, I will weight what you did in the class before the break a bit more heavily. Consider the following grading schemes:

- 5% Homework + 5% Attendance + 5% Quizzes + 18% Exam 1 + 18% Exam 2
+ 18% Exam 3 + 11% Exam 4 + 20% Final Exam

- 5% Homework + 5% Attendance + 5% Quizzes + 25% (highest grade of the four exams)
+ 20% (2nd grade of the four exams) + 15% (3rd grade of the four exams) + 25% Final Exam

Furthermore, IF you continue to make a good effort for the rest of the semester by completing the homework assignments, trying all the quizzes, and taking all the exams seriously enough to show me that you have tried to continue to learn new material under these circumstances, then I will also consider the following grading scheme, which only considers exams done before the break:

- 10% Homework + 5% Attendance + 10% Quizzes + 30% (highest grade from first three exams)
+ 25% (2nd grade of the first three exams) + 20% (3rd grade of the first three exams)

Therefore, you would not be penalized for struggling to adjust to this new online instruction, but again, I will only offer this as a possibility to people who keep up their work through the rest of the semester, so it is NOT an excuse to stop trying!

**Letter Grade Cutoffs:** A: 90%, B: 80%, C: 70%, D: 60%, F: below 60%

**Homework:** Homework will still be completed online with MyOpenMath.com and will still be due most Fridays.

**Exams:** We have already had three exams. I would still like to have a fourth exam, and we definitely will have a final exam. I'm still not 100% sure how the exams will go, but I can say that the exams will either be given using MyOpenMath, or you will download the problems off the website or email and do them on paper. Either way, I will want you to email me pictures of your work done in solving the problems so that I can check your work and assign partial credit if earned. Tentatively, my plan is to administer the fourth exam on Wednesday, April 15, using MyOpenMath. Our final exam had been scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, so I will try to stick to that. I will give more details on accessing and completing the exams when they get closer.

**Quizzes:** We have taken 4 quizzes so far. I will try to get a couple more quizzes scheduled using MyOpenMath. They will still be very brief quizzes, intended to test you with more immediacy than the exams and with less consequence. The problems that appear on the quiz will be versions of the problems in the homework. I am now saying that only your best 3 quizzes will count toward your grade, since the mode of administering these quizzes is now changing.

**Attendance:** Everyone who had less than 10 unexcused absences before the break will get the full 5% for attendance. This was most of you! If you missed 10 or more lectures, you lost one percentage point for each two lectures missed after 10.

**Getting Help:** This is more important than ever since we don't get to meet in person! Please feel free to email me if you have questions about the course material and can't access my live-streamed virtual office hours. And if you email me with a math problem and my answer doesn't make sense to you, let me know! It's hard to learn math just from reading, so I am going to do my best to help you out as much as I can. Finally, do feel free to use the forums on MyOpenMath to post and answer questions, to learn from each other and help each other learn.