

Hello,

Welcome to the online version of Math 080 – Sections 96, 97, and 99. This is likely to be your first completely online math course. Undoubtedly there will be a few technical glitches along the way, they are unavoidable, but patience and good humor should see us through. This is a relatively long email message that provides you with information about this course, so I would suggest that you print this message and save it.

Our "virtual classroom" will be run through a program called **UCompass** that you will access through the Internet. In UCompass you will find my weekly announcements, my syllabus which contains information about the class such as my testing and grading policies, your weekly packets which contain your weekly assignments, your weekly email problems, and your weekly discussion board activities that we will use for class communications. The URL for UCompass is <http://henryford.ucompass.com>

The primary mode of instruction for this course is a multimedia software program, called **MyMathLab**, that can be accessed through the web site www.coursecompass.com In MyMathLab, you will have access to the online textbook, video lectures, student solution manual, the weekly online homework problems, as well as the weekly online quizzes.

Thus you will be working with two web sites: <http://henryford.ucompass.com> and www.coursecompass.com.

Before the semester begins, I want you to purchase the MyMathLab Access Code and the textbook through the college bookstore. Or if you wish, you can just purchase the MyMathLab Access Code either through the college bookstore or directly through the publisher as the textbook can be viewed online with the MyMathLab Access Code. Information regarding the textbook and the MyMathLab Access Code are listed at the end of this email.

Please note that all students **MUST TAKE THREE CHAPTER EXAMS AND THE FINAL EXAM ON CAMPUS in the Learning Lab** which is located on the second floor of the Learning Resource Center. Students can take these exams anytime that the Learning Lab is open from Monday through Saturday. (The Learning Lab is open MTWR from 8 am to 8:40 pm, Fri from 8 am to 4:30 pm and Sat from 9:40 am to 1:40 pm.)

Following are the dates of these four exams.

Exam 1 Monday, February 7 through Saturday, February 12

Exam 2 Monday, March 21 through Saturday, March 26

Exam 3 Monday, April 18 through Saturday, April 23

Final Monday, May 2 through Friday, May 6

All other weekly quizzes, weekly email problems, and weekly discussion questions and/or group projects are done online. Thus you **must** come to campus a total of four times during the Winter 2011 semester to take these three chapter exams and the final exam.

I have found that some students take the online sections as they think they are easier. Frankly they are harder. If your reading comprehension is weak, then this is not the course to take. If you are not organized and tend to procrastinate, then this is not the course to take. You also must have a functioning computer at home and be very computer literate. This course is not self-paced as you must complete specific sections of the textbook each week, including the weekly emailing of 4 to 5 math problems each week. In addition you will solve weekly online computer homework problems plus take a weekly online computer quiz. You also have to participate in weekly discussions where you must ask various math homework problems and answer other students' math questions. The textbook can be viewed online along with short video lectures. In addition, I refer students to various off-site web sites that deal with specific math topics. I also have various PowerPoint presentations that students should view. In addition, you must come to campus 4 times to take 3 chapter tests plus the final exam at the above dates.

If you feel you can deal with all of these things, then this online beginning algebra course will work well.

I will send you two more detailed letters after you register for this course.

Please call (313-845-6429) or email me at aseavitt@hfcc.edu with any questions or problems you may have **before the semester begins. After the semester starts, email me ONLY THROUGH UCOMPASS.**

Textbook:

Beginning Algebra, 5th Ed., by Elayn Martin-Gay with CD and MyMathLab Student Access Kit (Pearson/Prentice Hall; ISBN 978-0-321-75186-7)

MyMathLab Course ID: seavitt34867

Following are various options and prices for buying the text and MyMathLab Student Access Code:

- **A new textbook with CD** purchased through the college bookstore bundled with the **MyMathLab Student Access Code** will cost \$154.50 (ISBN 978-0-321-75186-7).
- **A used book with CD** purchased through the college bookstore bundled with the **MyMathLab Student Access Code** will cost \$115.90.
- The **MyMathLab Student Access Kit (Stand-Alone)** can be bought for \$76.95 (ISBN 978-0-321-19991-1) if purchased through the HFCC Bookstore but if directly purchased from the publisher, Addison-Wesley, will cost \$75.00 using a credit card when you register for MyMathLab through coursecompass.com.
- *You really don't need to buy the textbook and the student solution manual. This is due to the fact that you are able to access a PDF file of the complete textbook and student solution manual when you purchase just the MyMathLab Student Access Kit (Stand-Alone). Some students have done this as it is cheapest but make sure to factor in any printing costs of each page of the text if you dislike reading the book on your computer.*

Here's to a great semester,

Andrea Seavitt