

## **WELCOME TO MATH 175**

This document will answer some questions you might have as you begin the course. See the syllabus for a detailed list of course requirements. Email me with any questions at [kkasin@henryford.ucompass.com](mailto:kkasin@henryford.ucompass.com).

## **WHO IS YOUR INSTRUCTOR?**

My name is Ken Kasin and I've taught math full time at HFCC for 16 years. I teach all levels of math but in recent years I've taught mainly introductory statistics and math for health careers as well as online sections of Intermediate Algebra and Precalculus. My non-math hobbies are carpentry and gardening.

## **WHERE IS THE COURSE?**

The course is really in two places: **Ucompass** contains most of the organizational tools for the course and **Coursecompass**(MyMathLab) contains the mathematical content of the course.

**Ucompass:** You will find the Ucompass site at <http://henryford.ucompass.com>. Your username and password should be exactly the same as those that you use for Web Advisor. Contact tech support on the Ucompass login page immediately if they do not work for you. Again, Ucompass provides the structure for the course; you will find announcements, a course calendar containing your assignments, a syllabus containing information about the class such as testing and grading policies, an internal email system for course communication, and a discussion board that we will use for class communications about homework.

**CourseCompass:** The Ucompass menu also contains a link to MyMathLab powered by CourseCompass. This is where the course instructional material (think of lectures in a traditional course) is located. Access to this site is provided through a license, which has been bundled with your textbook. To register, follow the instructions in the access kit. When you enter MyMathLab, the first announcement will direct you to install necessary pluggins so that you will be able to use the interactive instruction. The instruction includes an interactive textbook with video lectures, as well as interactive homework exercises. Your weekly quizzes are also stored in MyMathLab. From outside of Ucompass you can access MyMathLab at <http://www.coursecompass.com>.

## **WHERE DO I GET MY BOOK?**

You can buy your book at the bookstore. Make sure you purchase the book for Math 175 section 99. (Precalculus: Graphs and Models, 4th edition with Graphing Calculator Manual plus MyMathLab Student Access Kit, by Bittenger, Beecher, Ellenbogen and Penna.) Your book is bundled with a MyMathLab access kit, which includes information about logins to MyMathLab. Digital Video Tutor is also bundled with your textbook for students who want additional instruction.

**NOTE: If you are comfortable reading an online textbook, it is not necessary for you to purchase a hardcopy of the textbook. An online version of the textbook is available through your MyMathLab access, so it is only necessary for you to purchase an access code for MyMathLab.**

## **HOW DO I LOG ON?**

To log into the Ucompass site use the login name and password that you use for Web Advisor access. To log into MyMathLab use the instructions provided with the access kit included with your textbook.

**DO I NEED A GRAPHING CALCULATOR?** The math division expects all students to learn how and why to graph using technology such as a computer, or software. You should have a TI-83or 84 calculator. Your textbook has technology tips about using the calculator and additional information

about the calculator is available in the learning lab if you are a beginner. Your exams will include problems that require the calculator and if you continue onto calculus your instructor will assume that you are comfortable with the calculator.

### **HOW SHOULD I GET STARTED?**

Log in to Ucompass and explore the Ucompass site. Pay special attention to the syllabus, the calendar, the internal email system and the discussion board. (Note: There is a link to MyMathLab in the buttons in Ucompass but you will need the access kit in your textbook in order to login to MyMathLab.) Go to the Ucompass Calendar and view your first assignment for section 2.1. You can post a response to the first discussion board question even before you've picked up your book.

Use your access kit to log in to MyMathLab and follow the instructions in the first announcement to download necessary pluggins. Then go to chapter 2, section 2.1 and explore the interactive options for instruction.

### **WHERE ARE THE ASSIGNMENTS?**

Once you log on to the Ucompass site, click on the Calendar button in the menu to find out what your assignments are. The underlined entries in the calendar are links to assignment pages.

### **DO I HAVE TO COME TO CAMPUS TO TAKE EXAMS?**

You will need to come to campus four times in a semester to take exams. You will have about a week's window to take each exam and you take your exams in the Learning Lab anytime it is open during the exam period. Note that the final exam must be taken Tuesday through Friday of finals week. See the Calendar for the schedule and links to pages containing more information about how to take exams for this course.

### **HOW IS MY GRADE COMPUTED?**

The components of your grade will be weighted as follows:

Exams on Campus: 70%

Written and online homework: 9%

Online Quizzes: 11%

Participation through email and discussion board: 10%

See the Ucompass Syllabus for more specific information about how your grade is computed. Make sure to read the description of participation points. The syllabus is a contract between you and me so you should make sure you read it and agree with it within one week of the beginning of classes. After that point the college will keep a portion of your tuition should you wish to withdraw.

### **EXPECTATIONS . . .**

You can expect me to answer e-mail questions within 24 hours during weekdays. You can expect me to give assessment that tells you not only what is wrong and right, but how to improve your work. You can expect me to e-mail or call you if you fall more than 1 week behind schedule.

I expect you to read the Announcements, your e-mail, and the Discussion Board at least twice weekly.

I expect you to stay within a week of the course schedule. I expect you to interact with other students in the Discussion Board. I expect you to ask questions when you do not understand.

### **CONCLUSION**

I look forward to working with all of you. Experience tells me there will be a few computer glitches on each end as the semester starts, but with flexibility and patience we'll make the course a success.

Regards,

