Santiago Canyon College
Math 140, College Algebra
Spring 2012

Hello!

My name is Randy Scott and I am SCC's Math 140 Coordinator. My contact information is listed above. Feel free to contact at any time about any issue that you have in Math 140.

As we begin the semester, be sure that you have

1. a book *Explorations in College Algebra*, fifth edition, by Linda Kime. If you need a book, email Craig Nance `nance_craig@sccollege.edu` and find a time when you can pick one up. Your students will be purchasing a package at the bookstore consisting of the textbook, class notes, and a WileyPlus code.
2. the attached course reference sheet
3. the attached assignment list. Gray rows on the assignment list are optional. More about this later.
4. access to the internet to set up and view student progress on the online assignments.
5. your syllabus. Be sure to email a copy of your syllabus to Esther Odegard `odegard_esther@sccollege.edu` in SC-210.

This course uses WileyPlus, an online homework component. All of you should've received an email from the publisher, informing you that your account has been created. For each of you, I've created a password using the first initial of your first name together with your last name. For example, Randy Scott has a password "rscott". Your password is case-sensitive. You'll be prompted to change your password when you first login.

If you're unfamiliar with online homework systems (I was) then this introduction will be helpful in understanding how WileyPlus is structured:

`https://www.wileyplus.com/WileyCDA/resources-and-support.html`

I've created a full set of online problems for you to assign. Of course, if you'd like to make our own choices, then you are certainly free to do so. To locate the assignments I've created, sign into WileyPlus, click on the "Assignments" tab, and in the right hand column, select "Other Instructors" and you'll be able to find my name and the assignments.

Each of the online assignments consists of about 20 questions. The questions take a variety of forms and difficulties. Some are multiple-choice, and some require the students to enter their results in an equation editor. I've set up my questions so that the student has 4 tries to get the problem correct. After the second try, they receive a hint, after the third try, they receive a link to the relevant section of the textbook.

I strongly recommend that you try these out before your students; they will have a number of questions during the first couple of weeks, but by the third week, they'll be quite proficient.

Based on my experience from Fall 2010, I've also prepared a list of problems that the students are to complete from the textbook. This serves a dual purpose. First, it gives the students practice writing out their solutions in a form similar to what would be expected on exams. Second, it gives the class a set of problems to review together. (With the online problems, each student receives a distinct problem. This meant that reviewing homework in class was not as effective as with a traditional homework assignment.) Again, these problems are just suggestions. You may decide to assign more, less, or even none.

A graphing calculator is required for this course. It would be best if you would recommend that your students purchase either a Texas Instruments TI-83+ (or TI-83+ Silver) or TI-84+ (or TI-84+ Silver) so they are using the same calculator they see you demonstrating in class. I'll be happy to help you at any time with using or integrating the graphing calculator into your curriculum.

To display your calculator results to your class, use the document camera in the mediated classrooms. If you are in a classroom that is not yet mediated, use the overhead projector with a tethered calculator viewscreen. If you need a calculator for the viewscreen, see our calculator master sergeant, Craig Nance.

The final exam for this course is a written exam, prepared and supplied by the Mathematics Department. I will contact you during the 14th week of the semester to get a class count and will then prepare and distribute the final exam to you during the 16th week of classes.

If you have any questions at any time during the semester, please feel free to ask. Enjoy your semester!

Sincerely,

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