Course:   Math 1204, College Algebra (WWW Course)
Credit Hours:  4 credit hours for transfer
Prerequisite:  ACSK  0103 (Intermediate Algebra) with a grade of “C” or better, or 19 on the Math portion of the ACT, or 43 – 55 on the Intermediate Algebra portion of the Asset, or 65- 100 on the Intermediate Algebra portion of the Compass, or 0 – 45 on the College Algebra portion of the Compass.

Instructor:  Tracy Vaughan  
Office:  MAT  01 
Office Phone:  (501) 986-6920 
e-mail:  tvbaughan@nwacc.edu or my home e-mail address is trvaughan@cox-internet.com.  I may send you information from either address and will check both addresses frequently.

Office Hours:  Tuesday and Thursday by Appointment Only 9:00a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday by Appointment Only  9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Since I am working a reduced load this fall and teaching only on-line courses most of my office hours are on-line.  If you need to see me in person and cannot make an appointment during the above times, please let me know and we will try to make other arrangements.  Otherwise, feel free to e-mail me or call me with any questions or concerns.  I will check my e-mail at least twice a day Monday through Friday (except holidays) and I will respond as promptly as possible.

Course Description:
An overview of the fundamental concepts of algebra.  Topics include linear and quadratic equations and inequalities; the Cartesian plane and graphing; using a graphing utility; functions, graphs, and models; polynomial and rational functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; systems of equations, inequalities and matrices.

Course Objectives:  A student who is successful in College Algebra should be able to:

1)  Find the equation of a line and put in slope-intercept form.
2)  Recognize, combine, and graph various functions including, but not limited to linear, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions.
3)  Identify various translations of “basic” graphs.
4)  Manually find the zeros of a polynomial function using tools including the Rational Zero Theorem and synthetic division.
5)  Solve exponential and logarithmic equations manually.  Set up and solve application problems involving exponential and logarithmic equations including compound interest problems and other types of exponential growth and decay problems.
6)  Solve systems of equations using matrices.  Specifically using Gauss-Jordan elimination and/or Gaussian Elimination with back-substitution and/or inverse matrices.
7)  Use the above skills to formulate and solve mathematical models pertaining to real-world applications.

Required Text

Software Component
We will use the MyMathLab software in this course for doing homework assignments, taking tests, and using the discussion boards.  There are more components of the software available to you that you are welcome to take advantage of.  The three listed above are the ones that I require.
There is a great on-line orientation source at http://www.aw-bc.com/orientation/math.html.  Go to this website and check out the links:
  1)  Getting Started with MyMathLab
  2)  Features of MyMathLab
  3)  Registering for MyMathLab

Otherwise, for instructions on getting started with MyMathLab, go to www.coursecompass.com and follow the instructions for student registration.  The access code mentioned is in your new text.  If you have any trouble with this process, please contact me immediately.  Once you are registered look for the first discussion board thread and let’s get started.
**Calculator Usage**
You will need a graphing calculator for this course. I recommend a TI-82 or TI-83. If you do not wish to purchase a calculator one can be rented through the math department for $15 for the semester. To rent a calculator you must first go to the cashier’s office and pay. You then bring your receipt and your driver’s license to Jill Witt in MAT 02. She will then rent a calculator to you.

**Grading**
Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Grade</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Homework” Grade</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz Grade</td>
<td>70 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Regular Exams @ 120 pts each</td>
<td>240 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
<td>600 pts</td>
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</tbody>
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A = 540 – 600 pts, B = 480 – 539 pts, C = 420 – 479 pts, D = 360 – 419, F = 0 – 359 pts

**Discussion Board Grade**
Each week I will post a discussion question or topic to the discussion board in MyMathLab. You are required to post to these boards at least 2 times per week and on at least 2 different days per week at least 15 of the 16 weeks of the semester. For each of the required posts you will earn 1 point for a maximum discussion board grade of 30 points. You may post as many times as you like on a particular thread, but you will earn a maximum of 4 discussion points per week. Feel free to start your own thread and ask questions or discuss topics other than what I suggest.

**Discussion Board Rules:** Always be courteous of your fellow posters. No foul language or rude or discourteous behavior will be tolerated. This is our "class discussion" forum so we will treat each other with respect and courtesy. If someone does not adhere to this policy he or she will be banned from discussion and will forfeit the discussion board points.

If you post on two separate days all 16 weeks of the semester you will earn 5 bonus points.

**Homework Grade**
You will have assignments from 30 sections of the text. Each assignment is done on computer, turned in electronically, and graded automatically through the MyMathLab program. You may resubmit your homework if you are not satisfied with your grade. Each homework assignment is worth 2 points for a total of 60 points for your homework grade. Each assignment has a deadline. If you do not turn in the assignment before the posted deadline, you will not be able to earn the homework points for that section. If you do not turn in an assignment before the deadline you will have to contact the instructor for a password to be able to work on the assignment at a later time.

**Quizzes**
We will have 8 or 9 quizzes worth 10 points each. These will not have to be taken at an approved proctor site. There will be a corresponding deadline and time limit for each quiz. I will count only your best 7 quiz scores in calculating your final grade in the course.

**Exams**
Testing will be computerized, as is your homework. Each test, including the final, will be comprehensive. The second exam will be largely based on material we have covered since the first exam. However, approximately 20 points will be based on material from the first test. The final exam will have approximately 120 points from material covered after exam number 2, the remaining 80 (approximately) points will come from questions over the first two tests. **There are no makeup exams.** If you miss an exam deadline you may use your final exam grade, converted to a score out of 120, to replace the missed score. If you miss both exams, you will receive a grade of 0 for the second exam. If you do not miss a regular exam, you may still replace your lower test score with your final exam score if it is better. The exam deadlines are listed below.

Exam #1—Must be taken by Friday, October 1, 2004
Exam #2—Must be taken by Friday, November 5, 2004

**Final Exam**—Must be taken by Friday, December 10, 2004.
Exams, Continued
Note: It is your responsibility to schedule your exams in a timely manner. If you are taking your exam in the Testing Center, you need to follow the Center’s policies for setting up exams see the Testing Center schedule at http://www.nwacc.edu/studentservices/testing.php. We will also provide some open lab time for testing in MAT 101. At least 48 hours prior to each exam, you need to let your instructor know when and where you plan to take the exam. Keep in mind your available testing times are limited to the times when the testing center or MAT 101 is open. You will need to check availability and schedule your time appropriately or risk not being able to take an exam. If you live out of area it is your responsibility to set up testing at an approved testing site and must have approval of instructor before testing at such a location.

Special Services
If you are a student with a disability who will be requesting accommodations, you should contact the Office of disAbility Services at the Student Information Center in the Central Education Facility, 619 – 4384. The director of disAbility Services will meet with you and recommend appropriate accommodations and services after you have submitted the required documentation. After you have met with disability Services and receive your registration card it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to make the appropriate arrangements.

Student Resources:
There is free tutoring available in the Math Café (MAT) Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and in the Learning Lab (CEF), Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.