

Syllabus: College Algebra

MAT 139 I60

Fall 2020

Number of Credits: 4 credits

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Barco

Days Class Meets: M-Th 10/27/20 - 12/19/20

Contact Phone: (248) 660-9008

Meeting Times: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Contact Email: BarcoMatthewL@jccmi.edu

Location/Venue: [Zoom](#)

[Zoom](#) Office Hours: 11:00am–12:00pm M-Th
& 1:00pm–2:00pm M-Th

[MyMathLab](#) Code: (barco74525)

Course Description

Algebraic functions, graphs and models are addressed. Emphasis is placed on the following function types: polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, rational and radical. In all topic areas, covered content includes simplifying expressions, solving equations, graphing using transformations, mathematical modeling and problem solving.

Course Objectives

All courses at Jackson Community College address one or more of the institutionally defined General Education Outcomes (GEOs). Math 139 contributes to: GEO 3: Demonstrate computational skills and mathematical reasoning.

All objectives refer to the following function types: polynomial, particularly cubic and higher order polynomials, exponential, logarithmic, rational, radical. Students successfully completing Math 139 should be able to:

1. Functions: Identify functions, use function notation, compositions of functions, inverse functions, domain and range
2. Understand and use mathematical properties to simplify expressions
3. Use algebraic and graphical methods to solve equations
4. Graph functions using transformations of basic graphs; understand relationships between algebraic statement and graphical features of a function such as intercepts, asymptotes, and turning points
5. Use a combination of manual and technology-enabled methods to find, use, and interpret mathematical models for data

Required Materials

- MyMathLab Student Access: contains electronic textbook (part of Access plan)
- MAT 139 Coursepack: contains course notes and worksheets (part of Access plan)
- Graphing Technology: Desmos (free online at Desmos.com) and/or graphing calculator such as TI-84 plus
- Computer or Tablet with Webcam and mic: required to do homework, to participate in class, and for proctored testing
- Scanner or scanning app: If you don't have access to a physical scanner, you can use a free app on your phone such as Adobe Scan, Cam Scanner or Genius Scan. These allow you to use the camera feature of your phone to record an image of a physical document and will convert to a pdf file. Check out this [tutorial video](#) a colleague of mine made about Adobe Scan.

Course Requirements

Live Online Class Sessions: While not required, I highly encourage you to participate in our interactive class sessions via Zoom. We will use our class time to answer questions, work extra problems for additional practice, and preview some of the video material and even to begin work on some of the worksheets that are assigned.

Video Lectures: Much of the material in this course will be presented in the form of video lectures. The content will usually be previewed during class, but to get the detailed information and a variety of helpful examples you will need to watch the videos and take notes in your coursepack. You are responsible for the content of these videos; some material will not be presented directly during class. Instead, we will use class time to answer questions, work extra problems and preview upcoming material. There are several benefits of doing this:

- When you watch a video lecture, you can rewind, fast-forward or pause as needed to absorb the material at a pace that is comfortable for you.
- There will be plenty of class time available to address everyone's questions so you can always get the help you need.

My Math Lab homework:

- These assignments must be done on a computer with internet access using MyMathLab (<http://www.mymathlab.com>). A separate document is provided with specifics.
- Homework will be due as posted in the course calendar and in My Math Lab. Late homework will be penalized at the rate of 25% until the end of the unit. Once a unit ends, homework for that unit can no longer be done for credit.
- You have an unlimited number of tries to do the homework before you submit it (up until the due date). So do them until they are right and you will have full credit!
- If you cannot figure out a problem, send it to me using the “Ask My Instructor” button and I will do it during our next class session.

Worksheets: The worksheets are part of your coursepack. Not every worksheet in the coursepack will be assigned; your instructor will clearly identify those that need to be completed and handed in. Worksheets must be submitted by the stated due date and will not be accepted late. You will be asked to hand in your worksheets using the following procedure:

- Complete the assignment by hand (pencil and paper); be sure to write clearly and legibly.
- Convert your assignment to a pdf. You can scan it if you have access to a desktop scanner, or you can scan and convert to a pdf using your phone and one of the free scanning apps.
- E-mail the scanned file to yourself and save it on your computer
- Locate the assignment in JetNet and click on the link. Submit the assignment by simply dragging and dropping the pdf file into the designated area.
- ONLY worksheets submitted to our JetNet course in pdf format will be graded.

Exams: Unit 1 and Unit 3 exams will be take-home tests. You will be able to take these tests on your own with your notes available, but will be asked to certify that your work is entirely your own, and you have not used outside help to complete the tests. The midterm (Units 1-2) and final (Units 1-4) exams are proctored, closed-book tests that must be taken while being monitored via a web camera. You will have the opportunity to do this during a normal class session, or you can make other arrangements directly with your instructor. Exams not taken by the due date will receive a grade of zero except under extreme, well-documented circumstances arranged in advance of the due date with the instructor.

Grading Procedure

A 2.0 or "C" is a passing grade. Only courses with passing grades count toward graduation. Other colleges transfer in only courses with passing grades. Many financial aid sources, including most employers, require passing grades. Additionally, earning less than a 2.0 in a class results in being unable to participate in the next level of courses in a discipline which requires this course as a pre-requisite. Registering for the next course sequence without passing the pre-requisite course may result in you being dropped from that class.

Grading Scale:		Grading Policy:
90 - 100%	4.0	
85 - 89%	3.5	My Math Lab Homework: 15%
80 - 84%	3.0	Worksheets: 15%
75 - 79%	2.5	Test 1: 15%
70 - 74%	2.0	Midterm: 20%
65 - 69%	1.5	Test 3: 15%
60 - 64%	1.0	Final Exam: 20%
50 - 59%	0.5	
0 - 49%	0.0	

Throughout the course, your grades will be stored in your JetNet Gradebook.

Communication:

There are a number of different communication modes you should be aware of:

- My primary form of individual communication with you will be your Jackson College e-mail. You should check your JC e-mail at least once a day.
- You can communicate with me via my JC e-mail as well (BarcoMatthewL@jccmi.edu). On business days if you send me an e-mail before 3 pm you will normally hear back from me the same day; e-mails received after that time will be answered no later than the following business day.
- You will also receive personalized feedback from me on graded assignments in JetNet. You can view this feedback by looking at the JetNet gradebook line item for the specific assignment.
- Finally, if you would like to have a real-time conversation with me, please don't hesitate to let me know. I can set up a phone call or Zoom session for us so we can address any questions or concerns you might have.

Class Policies:

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is very helpful and is one of the leading contributors to overall success in the course.

- Our live online sessions will help you focus on the most important and challenging course material as well as give you the opportunity to ask questions and get clarification of challenging problems.
- As per college policy, I will be monitoring participation in class. I define active participation as the submission of assigned work in the course (worksheets, online homework, tests).
- If you fail to participate in the course for a period of one week, you will be dropped from the class.

Important Dates: Be sure to check out the JC Academic Calendar for important dates such as holidays with no classes, last day to withdraw, etc.

Extra Credit Policy: There will be no opportunities for extra credit. Your grade is based on your performance in class, not on extras. This is a mathematics department policy.

Incompletes Policy: (Excerpt from JC Policy) "A student may request an incomplete from the instructor. The incomplete will be granted only if the student can provide documentation that his or her work up to that point is sufficient in quality, but lacking in quantity, due to circumstances beyond the student's control. Furthermore, a written plan for making up the missing work within one semester must be completed by the student. Final determination of whether an incomplete will be given is the instructor's decision."

Academic Honesty Policy: Items assigned to you as an individual must be done by you - reflecting your own thought processes, not that of someone else. If I suspect you of academic dishonesty, I will follow JC's Academic Honesty Policy and take appropriate action up to and including assigning a failing grade for the paper, project, report, exam, or the course itself (whichever I deem necessary).

Classroom Behavior Policy: *"We know what a person thinks not when he tells us what he thinks, but by his actions."* - Issac B. Singer

1. Be Responsible: for your work, for your learning, for your behavior in class, etc.

The online homework and worksheets are going to require great levels responsibility on your part. You will need to stay on top of your schedule and your life to make sure that all coursework is done in a timely fashion.

2. Be Respectful: of other students, of the instructor, of the material, of yourself

Give your best effort. Remember that when you help someone else, you are learning material better yourself. Recognize that while grades matter, learning is actually more important than grades.

Where to Get Help

Office Hours: Please set up a time for a virtual meeting with me if you need questions answered. We can meet by phone or by Zoom to address any questions or concerns. The most important thing is to ask for help as soon as you think you need it – don't wait until problems become large!

Center for Student Success: The Center for Student Success has free tutoring available for students enrolled in Math 139. You can get help with worksheets, MyMathLab homework, preparing for exams and more. Find out about online tutoring at <https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/tutoring-center/>

MyMathLab: There are videos, extra problems, sample exams, lecture notes, PowerPoint lectures and more available in MyMathLab. It's a great resource! In particular, the **Study Plan** in MyMathLab can help with studying for exams as it gives you unlimited extra problems to do for practice.

Each Other: Get a regular study group. Write down names and numbers of your peers and call on each other when needed!