

Math 128 Syllabus

Spring 2009

Stan VerNooy

WELCOME to Math 128 (PreCalculus and Trigonometry)

Call Number 24440, Section HN101

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 till 2:50 PM

Henderson campus, Room B209

TEACHER:

Stan VerNooy: One of the world's truly extraordinary math teachers, and winner for the last 23 consecutive years of the prestigious "Stan VerNooy" award.

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Office phone: 651-3096

Office Hours: MW 11:30 AM – 12:25 PM and 2:50 – 3:10; TR 3:10 – 4:25 PM

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OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A one-semester course that is equivalent to the combination of Math 126 and Math 127. Topics include an in-depth investigation of algebraic and trigonometric functions and their graphs, solutions of systems of equations, analytic trigonometry, solutions of triangles, vectors, and analytic geometry.

PREREQUISITE:

Math 96 or 97 *with at least a C*, or appropriate score on placement exam.

OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Graph algebraic and transcendental functions.
2. Analyze properties of functions.
3. Solve parametric and trigonometric equations.
4. Verify trigonometric identities.
5. Solve triangles using the Law of Sines and the Law of Cosines.
6. Analyze the concepts of vectors and polar coordinates.
7. Investigate the properties of conic sections.
8. Apply and extend all concepts.

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**TEXTBOOK:** PreCalculus, Concepts Through Functions, A Right Angle Approach to Trigonometry  
by Sullivan and Sullivan

### **EQUIPMENT:**

The textbook, pencil, and paper (including some graph paper), and a *graphing calculator*. I strongly recommend a TI-82, 83, or 84 simply because those are the ones I know how to use and can help you with, so if you get a different kind, then make sure you hang on to the Instruction Manual!! The graphing calculator is required, and you will be given some homework and test problems which can't be done without one. You need to get the calculator *immediately*. Also **PLEASE NOTE** that I do NOT loan out my calculator to students who forgot to bring their calculators for a test or a quiz (or whose batteries ran out).

### **MATERIAL TO BE COVERED:**

The first 8 chapters with a couple of sections omitted, 10.1, plus 10.5, 10.6, and additional material on conic sections and using the graphing calculator.

### **GRADES:**

The three full-period tests put together will be one-third of your grade; all the quizzes put together will be one-third of your grade; and the final exam will be one-third of your grade. I will translate the numeric averages into letter grades by the following formula:

90% - 100%:	A (or A-)
80% - 90%:	B (or B+ or B-)
70% - 80%:	C (or C+ or C-)
60% - 70%:	D (or D+ or D-)
0 - 60%:	F

Your attendance (or LACK of attendance!) could also earn you a "W". See the policy on Attendance, Punctuality, and Courtesy.

You should not take Math 181 unless you earn a grade of "C" or better in this class. **A "D" is not good enough, and either is a C-minus!**

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Quizzes and Homework

You have been given a homework handout, but homework is never "due" and never has to be handed in. However, you really do have to do the homework, because of the next paragraph:

There will be a quiz every day beginning Wednesday, January 28, except on days when we have a full-period test. That quiz will always have two problems (or sometimes more than two) taken directly from the homework, with some slight alteration in the numbers or something so that you can't get the quiz right just by memorizing the homework answers. *So you need to do the homework in order to succeed on the quizzes!*

The Class Schedule handout tells you the date that each section will be covered on a quiz. Note that there is always a gap of at least two class periods between the time a section is covered in class and the time the same material shows up on a quiz. That's so you can ask questions about the homework problems during the class immediately after the day we covered that section in class. (Of course, you can phone me or come into my office with the question at any time.) **I DO NOT ANSWER HOMEWORK QUESTIONS BEFORE THE QUIZ.** So you need to do the homework problems for each section right after we cover the section in class.

A perfect score on a quiz is 60 points. But that's just an accounting convenience; the real story is that all the quizzes put together will count as one-third of your final grade.

TESTS:

There will be three full-period exams, spaced roughly evenly throughout the term. A perfect score on a full-period exam is 400 points. There will be a comprehensive final exam (on which a perfect score is 1200 points) on Monday, May 11.

On Monday, May 4, you may retake a new version of whichever one of the three full-period tests you choose to take over. The new version won't be the very same test you took the first time, but it will cover the same material. The grade that counts will be the higher of the two tries.

Makeup tests are not given for any reason. There are no excused absences from a test or a quiz. **Those two sentences mean exactly what they say.** I am sometimes willing to give you a test or a quiz in advance if you know that you will be out of town, but that offer *does not apply during the week before Spring Break or for the Final Exam.*

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**HELP:**

I WANT YOU TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE. ***You are welcome to call me at home at any time of the day or night.*** I try to get to bed by 11:00, but if you care enough about this course to be studying at 3:00 AM, then I can care enough to answer the phone and help you at the same hour. If I don't want to answer the phone, I'll just let my answering machine do the answering. I live almost right across the street from the school, and you will be welcomed with open arms if you want to come over and get help in person. Nobody will do badly in this course because he or she did not get enough help from me (at least within reason).

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

I try to conduct this class informally. I take it for granted that my students are honest adults. I don't treat people like potential criminals, and I don't look over their shoulders at everything they do. However, I have found a distressing increase in cheating over the last couple of semesters, and if you cheat (***and you don't need a definition of what cheating is!***) then there will be no second chances: your grade in the course will be an F or a W (at my option), and I will probably file formal charges against you.

**MISCELLANEOUS RULES AND ADVICE:**

1. The handout on "Attendance, Punctuality, and Courtesy" is considered part of this syllabus. I'm making it a separate document so you can sign one copy of it and return it to me.
2. STUDY. EVERY DAY. The general rule in college courses is that you need to spend two hours outside of class for each hour in class. That means you didn't just sign up for 5 hours of class time per week, you signed up for a total of **15** hours (5 hours in class, and 10 on your own). If you don't think you can put in that much time, you should seriously consider dropping the course.
3. The school has a rule against food and drink in the classrooms. Please remember the rule so I don't have to mention it any more.
4. Please call me Stan. Well, you don't have to if it makes you uncomfortable, but I prefer it. It helps me pretend that I'm the same age as college students. Yeah, I know I'm not kidding anybody (I'm 62), but it makes me feel good.

