

## MPC 091

**Instructor:** Tyler Wallace

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**Office Hours:** M-Th 9:15-10:20  
or by appointment

## Beginning Algebra I

**Credits:** 5

**Term:** Fall 2011

**Class Mode:** Technology Based

**Website:** <http://angel.bigbend.edu>  
<http://wamap.org>  
<http://wallace.ccfaculty.org>

**Course Description:** The study of basic algebraic operations and concepts, the structure and use of algebra, and the solutions to algebraic equations. The study of affective factors that influence success in studying mathematics.

**Prerequisite(s):** BBCC placement exam or score of 65% or better on each module on the MPC 090 competency exam. Students who fail to meet the prerequisite by the end of the third day of class (Wednesday) will be dropped from the course.

**Text(s):** All texts (required and optional) are available for purchase at the bookstore or fee download off the following website: <http://wallace.ccfaculty.org/book/book.html>.

- Required: *MPC 095 Lab Notebook* by Tyler Wallace
- Optional: *Beginning and Intermediate Algebra* by Tyler Wallace
- Optional: *Student Solutions Manual to Beginning and Intermediate Algebra* by Tyler Wallace

### Description of Online Course Resources:

- <http://angel.bigbend.edu> – used for getting started at the beginning of the course. Includes links to all other resources. Online homework can be completed inside this site using the WAMAP tab.
- <http://wamap.org> – homework is completed online using this site. It is an important site to have bookmarked. While you can access this site inside angle, if angel goes down on campus you can still access your homework online directly at this link. WAMAP also includes an online grade book where you can check your progress in the course.
- <http://wallace.ccfaculty.org> – while this site is not “needed” for the course, it is a good one to have for future reference. All course materials and videos can be found in some form on this site.

**Online office:** By appointment I am available in the online office. This is a virtual space that can be accessed over the web so you do not have to come to campus in order to ask me questions. Be sure to set up an appointment with me in advance and you can access the online office from the class website: <http://wallace.ccfaculty.org> and clicking on our course at the top, “MPC 091”.

**Course Objectives:** Each module will address a course level objective that should be mastered before moving on to the next module. Over the course of MPC 091-092-093 we will cover 10 modules:

- Module 95A: Simplify and solve linear equations and expressions including problems with absolute value. Also solve applications of linear equations.
- Module 95B: Solve inequalities; find equations of lines; and solve application problems.
- Module 95C: Add, subtract, multiply, and divide various types of polynomials
- Module 95D: Factor polynomials
- Module 95E: Evaluate, simplify, multiply, divide, add and subtract rational expressions.
- Module 99A: Solve compound inequalities, absolute value inequalities, and systems of equations.
- Module 99B: Simplify radical expressions.
- Module 99C: Solve quadratic equations and applications, also simplify compound fractions.
- Module 99D: Solve rational equations and applications.
- Module 99E: Use function notation to solve problems and use exponential and logarithmic functions.

**What you will do to be successful in this course:**

Each module of this course is set up exactly the same. The following assignments and assessments are designed for you to show you have mastered the required objectives of the course:

- **Notebook:** As you watch videos in the WAMAP system, take notes in the workbook. Each page in the workbook corresponds to a video in the homework system. The homework system also includes two problems similar to the video. Work these two practice problems out in the workbook.
  - Due: When you take the test, bring to the test with you to turn in.
  - Grading: Credit is given for completion of all pages for the module. Partial credit is assigned if notebook is incomplete.
  - Grade weight: 5%
- **Homework:** After watching about five videos (varies by section) you will complete a homework assignment of 15 problems. These are completed on WAMAP and should be done daily as listed on the calendar. While you are not required to turn in your work, it will be useful to show your work in an organized manner which you can reference later as you study. After completing about six homework assignments (varies by module) you will complete a practice exam. This is counted as homework in the grade book.
  - Minimum grade to move to the next section:
    - Workbook problem sets: 100%
    - Homework Assignments: 80%
    - Practice Test: 80%
  - Grading: Credit is given per problem and is graded by the computer. As soon as you submit a problem or assignment it will show up in your online grade book.
  - Grade weight: 20%

- **Exam:** After completing the practice exam you will take an exam.
  - Minimum Pace: You should be on track to complete 3 exams per quarter and 10 exams per year (this will require you to complete 4 exams one quarter)
  - Grading: Generally tests are 15 problems worth 2 points each. One point given for the answer and one point is given for the work. Please note this is a “general” grading system as there are occasional exceptions.
  - Retakes: You will have the opportunity to retake each test once as scheduled during the week immediately following the test.
  - Grade weight: 75%
- **Attendance:** While you do not earn points for coming to class, you will lose points with each absence. Once you hit four absences in a single quarter your quarter grade will drop one point or 10%. Then it will drop a half a point or 5% each day you are absent after this. Be sure to come to class.

**Grade:** If you complete at least three modules with a 65% weighted average I will calculate the average of the three highest modules to calculate your final grade which will be assigned by the table below. If you do not complete at least three modules a quarter you will automatically be given a 0.0 for your grade. Note: If you do not complete all ten modules by the end of the third quarter you will receive a 0.0 for the third quarter grade.

Percent	Grade		Percent	Grade		Percent	Grade		Percent	Grade		Percent	Grade
≥95	4.0		88	3.3		81	2.6		74	1.9		67	1.2
94	3.9		87	3.2		80	2.5		73	1.8		66	1.1
93	3.8		86	3.1		79	2.4		72	1.7		65	1.0
92	3.7		85	3.0		78	2.3		71	1.6		≤64	0.0
91	3.6		84	2.9		77	2.2		70	1.5			
90	3.5		83	2.8		76	2.1		69	1.4			
89	3.4		82	2.7		75	2.0		68	1.3			

**Pass/Fail Grades:** This only applies to students taking the course under the Pass/Fail grading option. It is the policy of the Mathematics and Science Division to assign a passing grade only if the earned grade for the course is 2.0 or better. This means 75% is required in the course to receive a passing grade.

**Withdraw Policy:** I do not sign late withdraws for any reason. The campus withdraw deadline for Fall Quarter 2011 is on Tuesday, November 22. If you decide to withdraw for any reason be sure you do not miss this deadline.

**Test Retakes:** You will have the opportunity to retake each test once, as listed on the course calendar, to improve your score. You must sign up in advance to do a retake. Test results will be given out as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours of taking the test. Retakes will be required of students who score lower than 65% weighted averages on the module, and highly encouraged of students who score lower than 75% weighted average

**How soon will I know my grade?** The WAMAP system grades your homework instantly as you submit each problem. Tests results will be available within 24 hours of the exam on the wamap grade book.

**Competency:** On each module you should strive to have a score of at least 75% or 2.0 once homework, workbooks, and tests are averaged together. If you score below 65% or 1.0 you will be required to retake the module exam. If you score between 65% and 75% you will be strongly encouraged to retake the exam to improve your grade. Students who earn 75% or higher are much more likely to be successful in the next module! If your score is above 75% you do have the option to retake your exam, however, it is suggested that you focus on the new material in the course.

**Calculators:** Calculators are not needed for this course. However, on homework or tests a calculator MAY be used. However only the following calculators may be used in Big Bend MPC courses: TI 30Xa, TI 30XIIs, Casio FX 260, Casio FX 300. Any other calculator, no matter how similar (especially not a multiview) is not permitted in this or any other MPC course.

**Special Needs:** Any student who feels he or she may need a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, please make an appointment to see me during office hours. You will also want to contact Disability Services in the 1400 building or by calling 509.793.2027 as soon as possible. The disability must be documented in order to receive accommodations.

**Cheating:** Don't cheat. Cheating will result in a 0.0 for the course. Complete honest is required. It is the students' responsibility to avoid even the *appearance of cheating*. This means (but not limited to): copying work from other students, using notes of any kind (audio, written visual, etc) on any test unless explicitly allowed by the instructor, giving test questions or answers to other students, receiving test questions or answers from other students, or anything else that might even APPEAR as academic dishonest.

**No Name:** Be sure to put your name on your paper. I do not give credit for no name papers and they will be thrown away.

**Using E-mail:** If you need to contact me for any reason by E-mail be sure you use your big bend email account. Any other messages may end up in my junk message folder and I may not respond.

**Technical Support:** Should you have any technical issues it will be important to contact your instructor immediately. You can reach the technical support desk at the following number: 509.793.2066.

**Support Services:** There are many options available to you should you have a question. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Contact your instructor!!!!!!
- Math Lab in 1201 (where you took your placement test)
- Student Support Services
- Tutors if available
- Set up an appointment with me

**Course Calendar:** Below is the minimum pace suggested fall quarter calendar. I will be checking with you daily to be sure you are on track to finish this course. Minimum pace is completing three modules successfully each quarter and completing ten modules over the three quarter sequence. The suggested calendar below completes four units during the first quarter. This is because the material is easiest during the first quarter.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Sept 19 Syllabus	20 Order of Operations	21 Simplify Algebraic Expressions	22 Linear Equations (day 1)
26 Linear Equations (day 2)	27 Formulas	28 Absolute Value	29 Word Problems (day 1)
Oct 3 Word Problems (day 2)	4 Age Problems (day 1)	5 Age Problems (day 2)	6 Review
10 Test 95A	11 Exponents (day 1)	12 Exponents (day 2)	13 Scientific Notation
17 Polynomials (day 1)	18 Polynomials (day 2)	19 Polynomials (day 3)	20 Division of Polynomials (day 1)
24 Division of Polynomials (day 2)	25 Review	26 Test 95C	27 GCF and Grouping (day 1)
31 GCF and Grouping (day 2)	Nov 1 Trinomials (day 1)	2 Trinomials (day 2)	3 Trinomials (day 3)
7 Special Products	8 Factoring Strategy	9 Solve by Factoring	10 Review
14 Test 095D	15 Reduce Rationals	16 Multiply/Divide Rationals	17 LCD
21 Thanksgiving Break	22 Thanksgiving Break	23 Thanksgiving Break	24 Thanksgiving Break
28 Add/Subtract Rationals (day 1)	29 Add/Subtract Rationals (day 2)	30 Dimensional Analysis	Dec 1 Review
5 Test 095 E	6 Finals	7 Finals	8 Finals