

**MPC 093****Algebra III****Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Tyler Wallace  
**Office:** 1228  
**E-mail:** [tylerw@bigbend.edu](mailto:tylerw@bigbend.edu)  
**Phone:** (509) 793-2154

**Credits:** 5  
**Term:** Fall 2011  
**Class Mode:** Lecture/Hybrid  
**Class website:** <http://wallace.ccfaculty.org>

**Office Hours (in person or virtual):** MTWTh 11:45-12:50 or by appointment.

\*If I'm not in the virtual office during my hour, call my office and I can connect\*

**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.

**Course Goals:**

- To present the fundamentals of algebra so that the student will be able to understand and use the basic concepts of algebra to solve simple mathematical problems encountered in consumer education
- To help the student identify and implement changes in attitude, study techniques, classroom dynamics and test taking techniques that will increase the student's success in math studies
- To prepare the student for more advanced work in mathematics, science, and business
- To increase the students' ability to deal with abstract concepts
- To teach students' to think in a logical manner.

**Prerequisite:** Passing MPC 095 with a 1.0 and Passing modules A and E of MPC 099 or successful completion of MPC 092

**Text:** *Beginning and Intermediate Algebra* by Tyler Wallace

- Paperback from bookstore: \$30.25
- Paperback from <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/algebratext>: \$22.69 + Shipping (\$3.99 for 5-15 business days, \$8.99 for 2-5 days, \$16.99 for 2 days, \$36.99 for 1 day)
- Download from class website: Free

**Evaluation/Methods of Grading:** Your grade will be based on the following:

- 75% on four competency tests
- 25% on daily quizzes

Once calculated, your grade will be assigned as follows:

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

**Competency:** On each unit you should strive to have a score of at least 75% or 2.0 once quizzes, homework, and tests are averaged together. If your score is below 65% or 1.0 you will be required to retake the module exam. If your score is 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 (80% more likely!) to be successful in the next module!

**Late Work/Missing Work:** No late work will be accepted. Missing a quiz will result in a 0 grade. Missing a test will result in a 0 grade and you will have to use one of the test retake times.

**Test Retakes:** You may elect to retake any and all tests once (if you score below 65% on the module it will be required, if you score between 65 and 75% it will be strongly suggested). Retakes are done during the 4 business days after the test results are given back to you. For example, if the results are given to you on Wednesday, retakes can be done on Thursday, Friday, Monday, or Tuesday. You must sign up for a retake in advance (24 hours!) as space is limited.

**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 for a passing grade.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is necessary for success in mathematics. For this reason your grade will be affected by absences. After 4 absences your grade will reduce 1 full point. For example a 3.8 final grade would be reduced to a 2.8. Every absence after that will reduce your grade 0.5 points. Thus after 9 absences you will have a 0.0 for the course (or sooner depending on your earned grade). Come to class everyday and you won't have to worry about this!

**Calculators:** Calculators are not needed for this course. However, on occasion, a calculator MAY be used for homework, test and quizzes. However, only the following calculators may be used in Big Bend MPC courses: TI30Xa, TI 30XIIs, Casio FX 260, or Casio FX 300. Any other calculator, no matter how similar (especially not a MultiView) is not permitted in this or any other MPC course. Note: I suggest students assume a test is no calculator allowed - you need to learn the math, not pushing of buttons.

**Virtual Classroom:** You have the option to attend class live over the internet. The link to access the online classroom can be found at <http://wallace.ccfaculty.org>. You may have to install some software the first time you log in. If you attend class virtually you will need to find a way to get your homework to me on the due date. Microphones are available for checkout if you need one, though they are not needed.

**A note about being sick:** The attendance policy makes room for you to be sick. You can miss a full week should you get sick with a flu virus or the like. But you can still "attend" class virtually using the above virtual classroom and this would not count as an absence. Please use your days off wisely, but please don't come to class sick! If you have a fever over 100 - stay home!

**Virtual Office:** In order to be more accessible to students, during my office hour I am also available in a virtual office. The link for the virtual office can be found at <http://wallace.ccfaculty.org>. You may have to install some software the first time you log in. I can also arrange a special appointment if needed at any time. Microphones are available for checkout if you need one, though they are not needed. If I am not logged in during my normal office hour, call my office at 509.793.2154 and I will log in!

**Recorded Videos of Class:** In order to assist in reviewing and working on your homework, all lectures are recorded and stored at <http://wallace.ccfaculty.org>. They will be posted each day after class. While these videos are a tool to help you study they do NOT substitute attending class live.

**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 my office hours. You will also want to contact Disability Services 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 honesty is required. It is the students' responsibility to avoid even the *appearance* of cheating.

**No Name:** Be sure to put your name on your paper. I will not give credit for no name papers.

Calendar – Subject to Change (assignments are given by section number)

| Date | Section | Topic                             | Assignment                     |
|------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3/28 | 8.1     | Square Roots                      | Odds                           |
| 3/29 | 8.2     | Higher Roots                      | Odds                           |
| 3/20 | 8.3     | Adding Roots                      | Odds                           |
| 3/31 | 8.4     | Multiplying Roots                 | 1-19 Odds                      |
| 4/4  | 8.4-8.5 | Dividing Roots                    | 8.4: 21-37 Odds; 8.5: 1-7 Odds |
| 4/5  | 8.5     | Rationalize Denominators          | 9-37 Odds                      |
| 4/6  | 8.6     | Rational Exponents                | Odds                           |
| 4/7  | 8.7     | Reduce Index                      | 1-11 Odds                      |
| 4/11 | 8.7     | Mixed Index                       | 13-45 Odds                     |
| 4/12 | 8.8     | Complex Numbers                   | 1-25 Odds, 43-57 Odds          |
| 4/13 | 8.8     | Rationalize Complex Numbers       | 27-41 Odds                     |
| 4/14 |         | Review MPC 099 B                  |                                |
| 4/18 |         | Open Questions                    |                                |
| 4/19 |         | Test: MPC 099 B                   |                                |
| 4/20 | 7.5     | Compound Fractions                | Odds                           |
| 4/21 |         | Problem Solving Day               |                                |
| 4/25 | 7.7     | Rational Equations                | Odds                           |
| 4/26 |         | Problem Solving Day               |                                |
| 4/27 | 9.1     | Equations with Roots              | Odds                           |
| 4/28 | 9.2     | Equations with Exponents          | Odds                           |
| 5/2  | 9.3     | Complete the Square               | Odds                           |
| 5/3  |         | Problem Solving Day               |                                |
| 5/4  | 9.4     | Quadratic Formula                 | Odds                           |
| 5/5  | 9.5     | Equations from Roots              | Odds                           |
| 5/9  | 9.6     | Quadratic in Form                 | Odds                           |
| 5/10 |         | Review MPC 099 C                  |                                |
| 5/11 |         | Open Questions                    |                                |
| 5/12 |         | Study Session                     |                                |
| 5/16 |         | Test: MPC 099 C                   |                                |
| 5/17 | 9.7     | Area Problems                     | Odds                           |
| 5/18 |         | Problem Solving Day               |                                |
| 5/19 | 9.8     | Teamwork                          | Odds                           |
| 5/23 |         | Problem Solving                   |                                |
| 5/24 | 9.9     | Simultaneous Products             | All                            |
| 5/25 |         | Problem Solving                   |                                |
| 5/26 | 9.10    | Revenue/Distance Problems         | Odds                           |
| 5/31 |         | Problem Solving                   |                                |
| 6/1  |         | Review MPC 099 D                  |                                |
| 6/2  |         | Open Questions                    |                                |
| 6/6  |         | Test: MPC 099 D                   |                                |
| 6/7  |         | Pass Back Tests                   |                                |
| 6/10 |         | Final: Retakes of Module D @ 8:00 |                                |