

ALGEBRA I 2011/2012

Course Syllabus and Classroom Guidelines

Ms. Arsenian Room 4315 Glendale High School

In this class, we will work together to establish fundamental algebraic concepts that will be utilized to promote critical thinking and problem solving strategies. Your cooperation in following classroom rules and procedures is required so that our time together will be spent effectively. A positive attitude regarding school and learning is expected at all times. Please come to class prepared and willing to learn new ways of higher-order critical thinking.

Below is a brief description of the California State Standards for **Algebra I**, which can be found in detail at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/mathstandard.pdf>:

Student will:

- ❖ have a solid understanding of integers, rational, irrational, and real numbers and use such operations as taking the opposite, reciprocal, raising to a power, and taking a root.
- ❖ solve and graph solutions of linear equations and inequalities.
- ❖ solve linear equations and inequalities involving absolute values.
- ❖ derive linear equations using various algebraic techniques and demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of parallel and perpendicular lines and how their slopes are related.
- ❖ add, subtract, multiply, and divide polynomials, manipulate them by factoring, and simplify fractions with polynomials in both the numerator and denominator.
- ❖ make decisions about how to approach and apply algebraic techniques to solve rate, work, interest, cost and percent problems.
- ❖ add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational expressions and functions.
- ❖ solve a quadratic equation using different approaches, including the quadratic formula, graph such functions, find the roots, and determine the domain of the independent variable and the range of the dependent variable defined by the given graphs.
- ❖ apply quadratic equations to physical problems, such as motion of an object under the force of gravity.

CLASSROOM RULES:

- 1) Be respectful and polite to students, teachers, and guests in classroom.
- 2) Be on time to class. This means, be in assigned seat before the tardy bell begins to ring.
- 3) Be prepared by having all work from previous day completed and have only algebra required materials on desk.
- 4) Follow all instructions, promptly, and always be on task.
- 5) Gum chewing, eating and drinking (except water) not allowed in class.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

GUSD Board Policy 5131.D states "Although [cell phones] may be brought to school campus, they are to be turned off and students are prohibited from using them in the classroom. The use of [cell phones] that disrupt school activities will lead to their confiscation by school officials and will be returned to the parent/guardian or the student at the end of the day". Accordingly, my classroom cell phone policy is as follows: **one** warning will be given to turn your phone off and put your phone away. On the **second** offense, your phone will be confiscated and locked away. You must return to my room at the end of the day for the return of your phone. Your parent/guardian will be notified of the offense. If the problem continues, you will be placed on a behavior contract that will affect your citizenship grade in the class and will involve parent, counselor, and/or administrative intervention.

CONSEQUENCES OF BREAKING RULES:

Two verbal warnings will be given. On the 3rd warning, the offense will be recorded, notification will be sent to parent/guardian. If the offense continues, the student will be placed on a behavior contract that will affect citizenship grade and will involve parent, counselor and/or administrative intervention.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

- 1) Required textbook *California Algebra 1 Concepts, Skills, and Problem Solving, Glencoe*
(please keep book at home, covered, and in a quiet location conducive to doing homework)
- 2) A spiral notebook for homework completion.
- 3) a section of a three ring binder with a divider labeled Algebra 1
- 4) mechanical pencils with an extra receptacle of black lead and an eraser
- 5) a red correcting pen
- 6) a scientific calculator

<u>GRADING POLICY:</u> The grading scale is as follows:	90% - 100%	= A
	80% - 89.9%	= B
	70% - 79.9%	= C
	60% - 69.9%	= D
	0% - 59.9%	= F

The final semester grade will be based on the following:

- a) 70% Tests, Quizzes, and End of Semester Final
- b) 15% Classwork (Cornell Notes, Examples, Do Nows)
- c) 15% Homework

STUDY HABITS/EXPECTATIONS:

Homework will be assigned **daily**, excluding test days. Homework must be done inside the spiral homework notebook, with proper heading/labeling, and is due at beginning of the next class session. Please copy down all questions unless instructed not to do so, show all work and box answers. Students who are absent are responsible for making up missed work within a reasonable amount of time. Random homework assignments are checked at least twice weekly and given a maximum of 50 points each.

Cornell notes, examples, and do nows will be collected at the end of each chapter. They are checked for completeness (date all notes), neatness, and Cornell style and given a maximum of 200 classwork points. The Cornell note taking system (see Cornell handout) is utilized for notes completion and organization. It is the student's responsibility to **summarize notes** on a daily basis at the end of each lesson in order to receive full credit.

Exams will be announced about a week before they are administered and returned as soon as possible. It is the **student's responsibility** to make arrangements to make up a missed exam due to an excused absence immediately upon return. Exams are both performance questions and multiple choice questions. The lowest test grade will be replaced with the average of all the exams at the end of each semester.

- ◆ Late work is accepted only under special circumstances for partial credit.
- ◆ There will be no extra credit given at student or parent request. However, various opportunities for extra credit will be provided throughout the year to **all students**.
- ◆ Extra help is available before or after school by appointment only.
- ◆ A no cheating policy is strictly enforced. Any assignment or test suspect of being copied will be given a zero and disciplinary action will be taken.

If you have any questions or comments, you may contact me at 818-242-3161, ext. 4315 or **e-mail** at tarsenian@gusd.net. I am looking forward to a successful year.

