

## Welcome to MA 153Y – Algebra and Trigonometry I

This is an online math course designed to allow you the flexibility of learning math without having to go to a typical classroom setting. The information that will be covered in this course will be exponents and radicals; algebraic and fractional expressions; equations and inequalities; systems of linear equations; polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic functions. The course will include online lectures (in video and powerpoint presentations), lesson outlines, online homework, and help via email. All of this material will be found on Blackboard Vista academic campus so be sure that you have access to all of this information. You will have access to all course materials on Blackboard starting Friday, June 10 (or soon afterwards). The URL for Blackboard is: <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/blackboard/index.cfm>

There are three midterm exams scheduled during the semester. You will need to arrange for a proctor and fill out the appropriate paperwork provided by the distance learning office. There will also be a two-hour final exam to be scheduled later in the semester.

My name is Erin Malloy and I will be the instructor for the course, though the PowerPoint presentation slides and the videos on Blackboard Vista were designed by my predecessor, Cari Carpenter. I have been teaching at Purdue University since last fall, and I loved teaching MA153 in the classroom, but this will be my first semester teaching the online course MA 153Y. I really enjoy teaching and I am looking forward to a great summer semester.

Our course will officially begin on Monday, June 13. Look for an email from me sometime on Monday (or shortly before) with further information.

It is recommended that you do three things to get started before classes begin. One is to get your book now. We will be using Algebra and Trigonometry with Analytic Geometry by Swokowski / Cole, Classic Twelfth Edition, Brooks / Cole (2010). ISBN # 0-495-55971-7. There are also supplemental items that you can purchase, such as a student solution manual. This purchase is completely optional and most likely not as helpful as you would like.

The second recommendation is for you to register for the online homework system and be sure to register for the Summer 2011 MA 153Y course. Instructions for you to register are attached to this e-mail. If you have taken this course on the West Lafayette campus and have experience with WebAssign, follow the short instructions. If you do not already have a WebAssign account, follow the instructions for new users. Be sure to register early so that any problems can be taken care of right away. The first online HW will be due Tuesday, June 14.

The third recommendation is that you visit Blackboard and be sure that you have access to MA 153Y for Fall 2010 semester (available Friday, August 20). Here is the URL: <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/blackboard/index.cfm>

You will log in with your Purdue username and password (career account information). For now, there will not be any information there; just make sure that you can get to the page through your career account, and check back closer to the weekend for more information.

You will also need a one- or two-line, scientific calculator for the course (recommended is the TI-30Xa or TI-36). You are only allowed a single or double line scientific calculator on exams, so please be sure that you have a legal one to use. No cell phones, graphing calculators, or PDA's are allowed.

I will mention at the outset that taking this course online will require a great deal of self motivation and independent work. There will be online homework as well as paper and pencil assignments. There will be exams throughout the semester. You are responsible for staying on track according to the schedule shown on Blackboard Vista. It will be detrimental to your grade if you do not watch the lessons and do the associated homework.

Good luck!