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GSMA 108

COLLEGE ALGEBRA AND TRIGONOMETRY

by

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June, 1975

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INTRODUCTION

The object of this course is to develop understanding and appreciation of the basic concepts and fundamental skills in algebra and trigonometry at the beginning college level. In addition, it is hoped that you will be able to apply these skills to the solving of some practical problems and will be prepared for further work in college mathematics.

Each of the sixteen lessons is divided into three parts: a reading assignment in the textbook, a discussion in this syllabus, and a written assignment. You should not expect to master a lesson by reading through the material quickly. Keep in mind that mathematics is sometimes difficult to read. Work with a pencil and paper so that you can understand the examples and find the solutions to the similar problems given in each section. Read each assignment carefully and learn all of the pertinent definitions, theorems, and methods.

Each lesson contains a list of exercises that will test you on the material which you have read and will help you understand the material in that lesson. You should write out your solutions neatly, modelling them after the worked problems in the text. If work is not done logically and completely, the grader will not be able to help you find the errors, should any occur. Often the exercises will have the answers in the back of the textbook. This is to help you. Don't refer to the answers until after you have worked through the solutions. When you have completed the exercises, check your answers, try to find your mistakes, and then correct them. Pledge each of your papers. Do not start a new lesson until you have mastered the previous material.

The final examination will count 75% of the final grade. When you are studying for the examination, review the problems on the corrected assignment sheets which have been returned to you. Attempt some of the problems that were not in the written assignment.

Textbook: College Algebra and Trigonometry, by Raymond A. Barnett. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1974.