Course: Mat 210: Precalculus  
Section: 01  
Room: SB 305B  
Schedule: MWF 1:30 — 2:20  
Instructor: L. Pedro Poitevin, Assistant Professor  
Office: Sullivan Building 308B  
Office hours: TuTh 4:00 — 5:00; WF 11:00 — 12:30  
Office phone number: (978) 542-6995  
e-Mail: lpoitevin@salemstate.edu

Course description: This course is intended to prepare the student for the study of calculus. Topics include: properties of the real number systems; absolute values, inequalities; detailed study of linear and quadratic equations; polynomial and rational functions and their graphs; exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions.

Course goals:

1. To provide students with a solid understanding of the concept of function.

2. To develop students’ dexterity in the use of basic tools that are routinely applied in calculus courses.

3. To familiarize students with elementary functions, their graphs and properties.

Learning objectives: A student who passes this course should be able to:

1. Recognize the properties that real numbers have.

2. Use the coordinate plane to represent equational relations and functions, and systems of inequalities.

3. Compute the distance between points on the plane.
4. Find the solution sets of systems of inequalities of limited complexity.

5. Understand the concept of function.

6. Expertly identify linear functions with their associated linear equations.

7. Expertly identify quadratic functions with their associated quadratic equations.

8. Become well acquainted with all elementary functions that show up frequently in calculus problems, including polynomial functions, rational functions, trigonometric functions, logarithmic and exponential functions, absolute value function, etc.

9. Become adept at the graphic display of the qualitative behavior of arithmetic combinations of functions.

10. Understand the notion of composition of functions, and become adept at the graphic display of the qualitative behavior of the composition of a function with simple linear functions.

11. Understand the concept of an inverse function, and correctly graph the inverse function of a given invertible function.

12. Understand thoroughly exponential and logarithmic functions and their uses.

13. Understand thoroughly trigonometric functions and their uses.

14. Understand the rudiments of polar coordinates, parametric equations, and conic sections.

**Attendance policy:** An *advance notice* for an absence to class is typically an e-mail sent to me 12 hours or more in advance of the class meeting the student will not attend. *Permission for absence* is typically an e-mail from me to the student to acknowledge receipt of an advance notice. *Excused absences* are absences for which I have advance notice, and for which the student has a permission for absence. Excused absences, if not excessive in number, will not negatively affect a student’s grade. An unexcused absence during a day when an assignment, quiz, or exam is due will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, quiz, or exam. I reserve the right to penalize students with more than three unexcused absences by reducing their final
grade by one letter grade. In the event that I wish to exercise this right, notice will be given to students in advance. **The student is responsible for completing all course requirements and for keeping up with all that goes on in the course (whether or not the student is in attendance).**


**Class format:** This will be a standard lecture/discussion class. Often the instructor will spend some class time explaining the basic concepts of the course, and occasionally students will gather in groups assigned by the instructor and discussions of the material will take place.

**Quizzes:** There will be weekly quizzes. Doing your homework will prepare you very well for the quizzes.

**Exams:**

- **Exam I**  *Tentatively* Friday, October 5
- **Exam II**  *Tentatively* Friday, November 2
- **Exam III**  *Tentatively* Wednesday, December 5
- **Final**  Friday, December 14, 11:00 - 1:00

**Grading scheme:** I reserve the right to change the following grading scheme, but it will very likely stand:

- **Quizzes**  10%
- **Homework**  10%
- **Exam I**  20%
- **Exam II**  20%
- **Exam III**  20%
- **Final**  20%

**Statement on equality of access:** Salem State College is committed to providing equal access to educational experience for all students in compliance with Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act and to providing all reasonable academic accommodations, aids and adjustments. Any student who has a documented disability should
speak with the instructor immediately. Students with disabilities who have not previously done so should provide documentation to and schedule an appointment with the Office for Students with Disabilities and obtain appropriate services.