

Sarasota Military Academy
Algebra 1 Course Syllabus | August 2011

SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Sarasota Military Academy is to provide high school students the highest quality education possible, incorporating the principles of leadership, discipline, patriotism and honor in a military environment. Our primary intent is to enable our cadets to become productive citizens and to help them shape their futures into satisfying and fulfilling lives.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Captain Jeffrey B. Daughtry | Educational Specialist in Educational Administration, Argosy University, Sarasota, Florida; Master of Arts in Education at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington; Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Psychology at Saint Martin's University, Lacey, Washington. Certified Mathematics Instructor 2000 – 08. Instructional Mathematics Coach 2008-09; Assistant Principal 2009-11.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to develop the basic fundamental algebraic concepts and processes necessary to solve a variety of real world and mathematical concepts, and to establish the foundation for higher mathematics courses not limited to but to include Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. **It is imperative that ALL cadets understand the Algebra I credit is required to graduate from high school.**

TEXTBOOK: Prentice Hall Algebra 1, Florida Edition D

CADET BEHAVIOR: The ultimate purpose of education is to assist each cadet as he or she explore and develop his or her capabilities and become an effective citizen. Developing and accepting responsibilities and meeting obligations are vital components of this purpose. To this end, discipline shall be administered when necessary to protect cadets, school employees, or property, and to maintain essential order. "Self discipline is our goal. If all of us will discipline ourselves to make good choices, we will all be better people." – Bob Rogers

- Be on time for class
- Bring necessary materials to class
- Upon entering, stow backpacks in the designated area
- Bring necessary materials from backpack to seat; there is no going back
- Raise hand to speak and wait to be addressed
- When acknowledged, stand to speak
- Address teachers as "Ma'am," "Sir" or according to their rank
- Use restrooms before class
- No food or drinks in classroom (except bottled water)
- Do not leave classroom without teacher's permission and hall pass
- Approach teacher's desk only on request

SUPPLIES:

- One-Inch Three-Ring Binder* with Five Dividers
- Three-Hole Notebook Paper
- Sharpened No. 2 Pencils and Erasers
- Pen and Pencil Pouch (Optional)
- Highlighter
- Basic Four-Function Calculator with a Square Root Function - Texas Instruments 503SV or similar

NOTEBOOKS: *The three-ring binder will be used daily. Contents of the notebook will include vocabulary, notes, homework, in-class assignments, tests, quizzes, and other material. Notebooks are periodically subject to inspection and will be assessed accordingly.

GRADING:

- Tests: 40%
- Quizzes (including notebook grades): 15%
- Homework: 25%
- Employability: 20%

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EMPLOYABILITY: The 20% Employability component of the cadet's grade is based upon demonstrating progress and/or compliance in certain classroom behaviors. Cadets start each month with 100 employability points, which will be reduced by demonstrating lack of growth and/or compliance in eight key areas:

1. Unexcused absences – 10 points (SMA attendance policy will be strictly adhered to)
2. Unexcused tardiness – 5 points
3. Missing work tools – 3 points
4. Keeping up with assignments and due dates – 1 to 3 points
5. Homework – 3 points
6. Proper wearing of the uniform – 3 points
7. Attitude of cooperation with instructor and fellow cadets – 1 to 3 points
8. Proper behavior and use of time in class – 1 to 3 points

HOMEWORK: In contrast, of traditional assessment methods, homework is assessed for completeness as opposed to simply being evaluated graded for accuracy, unless specifically indicated otherwise. **Homework assignments serve primarily as practice towards concept mastery and are designed to help the student strengthen skills and knowledge and uncover weaknesses.** The intent is not to hold students accountable for learning from their mistakes. Homework (without an excused absence) will be accepted for half-credit, but only one day after the due date. Exceptions to this policy are exceptionally rare and must be agreed to in writing by the instructor.

DAUGHTRYTIMES.COM: *The Daughtry Times* is an intense standards-based educational resource statistically proven to increase students' ability to grasp and retain mathematical concepts via real-world application beyond the requirements of a traditional standardized examination. Over a four-year study, approximately 96.37% of Mr. Daughtry's students met or exceeded standards on the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). *The Daughtry Times* is assigned every Wednesday and due Wednesday of the following workweek.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: The Academy Cadet Creed states: "*Not lie, cheat or steal and not tolerate that behavior in others;*" Cheating in any form will be dealt with according to SMA policy, which may include reporting to the Commandant of Cadets and the Honor Board. It will also result in a grade of zero for the assignment.

HOMEWORK COLLABORATION: Merely discussing homework problems with other students is not considered a violation of academic honesty. **William Glasser suggests that we learn 70% of what we discuss with others and 95% of what we teach to someone else.** If cadets submit homework that is the result of a collaborative effort, simply write the names of the other cadets who participated to ensure proper credit is granted. It is however, an honor violation to divide coursework amongst peers and disseminate responses.

ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP WORK: There is a strong relationship between attendance and academic performance. Cadets will request make-up assignments from the instructor immediately upon return to school and complete this work within a reasonable length to be no less than one full calendar day for each day missed. **This essential responsibility rests solely with the cadet.** The instructor will neither remind nor repeatedly ask the cadet for missing work. If a student is absent on the day of a test, he or she must make up the test the first or second day back. In the case of extended illness, the instructor will work with the student to arrange a reasonable make-up schedule as appropriate and in the best interest of student learning.

Cadets are expected to attend school each day; however, it is understandable that excused absences will occur. Florida Statute 1003.24 states that the parents/legal guardian of a child of compulsory age is responsible for the child's daily school attendance. School staff, parents, cadets and appropriate state agencies are expected to work together in the best interest of the student to ensure that all applicable school attendance laws are obeyed.

TUTORING: The instructor will be available for help Tuesday and Thursday afternoons until 3:00 PM. Other tutors are also available on campus. It behooves the student to seek necessary clarification prior to substandard academic performance. **Timely transportation home is the sole responsibility of the student.**