

**Mathematics 104**  
**Algebra for Business & Science Syllabus**  
**Fall 2021**

**Instructor:** Mitchell Schoenbrun  
**Phone:** (415) 652-3799  
**Email:** mschoenbrun@usfca.edu  
**Office:** Harney 119E  
**Mailbox Location:** Harney 222

**Classroom:** Lo Schiavo Science 209  
 Section 40664 (2:40-3:30PM) Tues/Thur  
**Office hours:** T/Th HA 12:30PM-2:30PM

**Midterms:** September 28<sup>th</sup>  
 November 9<sup>th</sup>  
**Final Exam:** Thurs Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00PM

**Course Description:**

This course covers mathematical theory and techniques fundamental to university level scholarship.

Topics include: the real number system with number theory concepts (algorithms for computation); percentage; simple and compound interest; linear and exponential functions; systems of linear equations; descriptive statistics.

**Required Textbook:**

- Elementary & Intermediate Algebra, Ron Larson, Cengage Learning

**Coursework and Grades:**

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Homework Assignments	10%
Midterms	50% (25% each)
Final Exam	40%

Though attendance and participation are not included in this scale, they may be used to boost borderline grades at the end of the semester. I may provide my class notes on my website at <http://schoenbrun.com/usf> however it is entirely *your* responsibility to acquire any information missed as a result of an absence.

**Homework:** Though the percent of your grade given to homework might seem low, doing homework conscientiously is critical to learning the material in this course, and thereby getting a passing grade. Doing the homework is your opportunity to practice the material covered in class. Without practice it is difficult to learn to apply what we are learning, and even harder to retain it. Unlike other subjects where forgetting everything you learned the day after the final might not impact your future education, mathematics is cumulative and dependent on the pre-requisite basics. Those of you who heed this will find the midterms and the final much easier than those who do not.

Please **staple** your papers and write your name and the assignment at the top right corner of at least the first page. A few problems on each assignment will be graded for correctness, and the rest will be checked for completeness. You are encouraged to work with other students on these problems however the work you hand in must be your own. You should come to class with questions about any problems that you found *difficult*. Do not get hung up on turning in a perfect homework paper, but instead focus on what concepts you understand and which ones you need assistance with. Some answers can be found in the back of the textbook for you to check your results against but answers that have obviously been copied directly from the book will not receive any credit. You must show your work. If you know that you will not be able to attend class on a day that an assignment is due you have several options: 1) Turn in your assignment to me early, 2) Give it to a classmate to turn in for you, 3) Leave it in my mailbox in Harney 222 before or during class time or 4) email it to me the day before class.

**Grading of homework.**

I will be grading a few random problems on the homework and checking to see if you have completed the assignment. Homework will be graded on a 4-point scale.

- 4) All graded problem were correct
- 3) Not all graded problems were correct, but the assignment was completed
- 2) The assignment was not completed
- 1) The assignment was done insincerely
- 0) The assignment was not turned in

Note that you will get the same full credit for a 4 or 3. A 2 will get half credit. A 1 or 0 will get no credit. You are encouraged to resubmit a 2 or 1 assignment after you have completed it for credit. I will allow a reasonable amount of time, but please do not expect to turn in a stack of assignments the week before finals.

**Midterm Exams:**

There will be two in-class midterm exams, each counting 25% toward your final grade. They will be given on Tuesday September 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup>. You may use a calculator on exams (see "Calculator" below). You will not be allowed to use any notes or books on the exam. No make-up exams will be given so be sure to mark your calendars now. See me immediately if you already know of a conflict.

**Final Exam:** We will have an in-class cumulative final exam. The exam is scheduled for Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup> December 10<sup>th</sup> May 3:00PM-5:00PM. The final will be longer than a midterm exam and you will have two hours to work on it. The day and time have been scheduled by the University and cannot be changed for any reason. *I will not give a make-up final exam for any reason* so mark your calendars immediately to avoid conflicts

**Grading Scale:**

Every exam as well as your final grade in the class will be based on a 100-point scale with letter grades assigned as

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	→
98	92	90	88	82	80	78	72	70	60		

I reserve the right to make some minor adjustments on the borders based on attendance, class participation and obvious conscientious effort on your part. My goal is to be as fair and impartial as possible.

**Academic Integrity:**

As a Jesuit institution committed to *cura peronalis* - the care and education of the whole person - USF has an obligation to embody and foster the values of honesty and integrity. USF upholds the standards of honest and integrity from all members of the academic community. All students are expected to know and adhere to the University's Honor Code. You can read the full text of the code online at [www.usfca.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.usfca.edu/academic-integrity).

- Plagiarism — intentionally or unintentionally representing the words or ideas of another person as your own; failure to properly cite references; manufacturing references.
- Working with another person when independent work is required.
- Submission of the same paper in more than one course without the specific permission of each instructor.
- Submitting a paper written by another person or obtained from the internet.
- The penalties for violation of the policy may include a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the course, and/or a referral to the Academic Integrity Committee.

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you are a student with a disability or disabling condition, or if you think you may have a disability, please contact USF Student Disability Services (SDS) at 415 422-2613 within the first week of class, or immediately upon onset of disability, to speak with a disability specialist.

If you are determined eligible for reasonable accommodations, please meet with your disability specialist so they can arrange to have your accommodation letter sent to me, and we will discuss your needs for this course. For more information, please visit: <http://www.usfca.edu/sds> or call (415) 422-2613.

**Behavioral Expectations:**

All students are expected to behave in accordance with the Student Conduct Code and other University policies (see <http://www.usfca.edu/fogcutter/>). Open discussion and disagreement is encouraged when done respectfully and in the spirit of academic discourse. There are also a variety of behaviors that, while not against a specific University policy, may create disruption in this course. Students whose behavior is disruptive or who fail to comply with the instructor may be dismissed from the class for the remainder of the class period and may need to meet with the instructor or Dean prior to returning to the next class period. If necessary, referrals may also be made to the Student Conduct process for violations of the Student Conduct Code.

**Learning, Writing, and Speaking Centers:**

The Learning, Writing, and Speaking Centers at USF provide individualized support to assist you in better understanding course material and to aid you on your path to success. Services are free and include one-on-one tutoring, group tutoring, and one-on-one Academic Skills Coaching appointments to discuss effective study strategies. The Learning Center supports over 80 courses each semester. The Writing Center helps students develop their writing skills in rhetoric, organization, style, and structure, through one-on-one interactive conferences. The Speaking Center helps students prepare for public speaking — including speeches, oral presentations, team presentations, and visual aid demonstrations. International students may also contact us to learn more about communicating with professors and general academic study skills. The Learning, Writing, and Speaking Centers are located on the Lower Level of Gleeson Library. Please contact them at [415-422-6713](tel:415-422-6713) for further assistance or visit <https://myusf.usfca.edu/student-life/lwc> to make an appointment.

**Counseling and Psychological Services:**

Our diverse staff offers brief individual, couple, and group counseling to student members of our community. CAPS services are confidential and free of charge. Call 415-422-6352 for an initial consultation appointment. Having a crisis at 3 AM? We are still here for you. Telephone consultation through CAPS After Hours is available between the hours of 5:00 PM to 8:30 AM; call the above number and press 2.

- To report any sexual misconduct, students may visit the Title IX Coordinator Legighia Fleming (UC 5th floor) or see many other options by visiting our website <https://myusf.usfca.edu/title-ix>
- Students may speak to someone confidentially, or report a sexual assault confidentially by contacting Counseling and Psychological Services at [415-422-6352](tel:415-422-6352) or speaking to a clergy member in University Ministry at [415-422-4463](tel:415-422-4463).
- To find out more about reporting a sexual assault and resources at USF, visit USFs Callisto website at: <http://usfca.callistocampus.org/> .
- For an off-campus resource, contact San Francisco Women Against Rape (SFWAR) (415) 647-7273 ( <http://www.sfwar.org/>).

**Calculators:**

You will need a scientific calculator for this course. Graphics calculators, programmable calculators, cell phones and any other device which allow the storage and display of formulas may be used for coursework but are prohibited during examinations.

**Course Web Page:**

You can access your class Web Page by going to [www.schoenbrun.com/usf/math104](http://www.schoenbrun.com/usf/math104).

**Additional Comments:**

- Please turn off your cell phones during class time. If you have a truly important reason, please sit near the rear of the class and take your call outside.
- Please make a conscious effort to be on time to class. If you need to be late, please come in quietly.
- Students are expected to conduct their academic work in a professional and ethical manner. Any student found cheating on an exam will automatically receive an F in the course and will be reported to the Dean.
- If you do not understand a particular concept, ask me in class, come to my office hours or ask your study group. Mathematics is cumulative and if you start to fall behind it becomes increasingly difficult to catch up. You are encouraged to politely interrupt me in class with questions.
- If you feel like you need more help than what you can receive from me or your peers, please take advantage of tutoring available through the *Learning and Writing Center*. Visit them in person in Cowell 215, call them at extension 6713 or go to [myusf.usfca.edu/student-life/lwc](https://myusf.usfca.edu/student-life/lwc). They usually have drop-in group tutoring as well as personal tutors available.

**Important dates:**

- *Tuesday August 24<sup>th</sup>: First day of class*
- *Monday August 30<sup>th</sup>: Last day to add*
- *Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup>: Midterm*
- *October 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>: No class, Fall Break*
- *November 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>: No class, Thanksgiving Holliday*
- *Friday November 5<sup>th</sup>: Last day to drop*
- *Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup>: Midterm*
- *Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>: Last day of class*
- *Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup>: Final Exam 3:00PM-5:00PM*