

Math 1101 – Mathematical Modeling

**Crauder, Evans and Noell's *Functions and Change, A Modeling Approach to College Algebra, 3rd ed.*
Lecture Notes for Chapter P, "Calculator Arithmetic"**

This chapter gets you started with remembering how to use the TI-83 calculator and its close relatives. The exercises cover material you've seen in previous algebra courses.

You are encouraged to begin using WebAssign with this chapter, to become familiar with how it works. There is required homework in WebAssign that is patterned off the exercises at the end of each section of the textbook, and this can be of great benefit to you both in sharpening your calculator and algebra skills and learning the paradigm of WebAssign for homework. Don't fool yourself! The ability to use the calculator is a necessary skill for the study of mathematical modeling.

Some thoughts about having a regular routine of study, so that you can be successful in this course:

The authors have used every tool of modern publishing to draw your attention to the important concepts: italics, colored ink, pictures, arrows, etc. But if you don't regularly crack your book to study after every lecture, they're not going to do you any good! And, when you register and activate your subscription to www.webassign.net, you'll find that this online supplement to the textbook provides important opportunities that further explain concepts and test your comprehension of them.

The authors of the textbook have produced an excellent suite of exercises to thoroughly test your understanding of the material in each section of the book. The answers for the odd-numbered activities appear in the back of your textbook. WebAssign is full of resources to assist you in gaining the knowledge required by this course for the subject of mathematical modeling. Questions about homework activities (online or in the book) are legitimate questions to ask in class. So ask them, already! Or use email if you want a different form way to communicate.

These post-lecture pages will be embellished with notes as the semester progresses, so be sure to come back to them often, especially as the date of a test or the final exam approaches.

Notes after Class Meeting #1, Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Get your calculator out and get real familiar with it. Please recognize how you are the real brain that it depends on to produce correct answers!

Unless specified otherwise, we'll round final answers to 2 decimal places. But never round at an intermediate in the exercise!

Please gain a complete understanding of why the calculator needs your insertion of pairs of parentheses to correctly specify certain formulas. These are usually ones that are written in the book or by you on more than one line (i.e., fractions and exponents, especially those where the expressions contain more than one term).

Don't confuse the meaning of the two keys on the calculator that contain a minus sign. One means subtraction; the other means negation. Keep them straight!

Now get set up in WebAssign, using the subscription registration code that came with your book in conjunction with the course key code I've listed in my syllabus. There's homework waiting for you there!

Next time we'll continue to talk about Section 1.1 and then launch into 1.2, which is about describing functions via tables. See you there in class on Thursday!