

# MAC 1105 Fall 2021 Syllabus

## Instructor Information

### Course Instructors:

Qingchao Zhang and Tyler Smith

### Contact:

qingchaozhang@ufl.edu

jtsmit4@ufl.edu

Before sending a message, be sure to check the most recent announcement!

### Office Hours:

Qingchao Zhang: W3, F3, or by appt.

Tyler Smith: M6, R7, or by appt.

These times are meant for students to get quick answers to their questions.

*You do not need have video or even audio to join these meetings.*

Come in and ask your questions via chat, audio, or video.

**Additional information about the coordinators, the course, and aspects about the course can be found on Canvas.**

## Description of Course

MAC 1105 (Basic College Algebra) is a review of Algebra designed to prepare students for MAC 1140 or MAC 1147. Content for this course includes: reviewing real and complex numbers, solving various types of equations, graphing basic functions, and exploring exponential and logarithmic functions.

**NOTICE** – This course is designed for students who will eventually take Calculus or need MAC 1105 for their major. Students looking only to complete their general math requirement should heavily consider taking *Math for Liberal Arts Majors 1* (MGF 1106) or *Math for Liberal Arts Majors 2* (MGF 1107).

## Course Materials

Canvas is your main resource for this course. You can access Canvas by going to <https://ufl.instructure.com/> and then using your Gatorlink username and password to login.

### Textbook

This course uses an open-source textbook, which can be found at <https://openstax.org/details/college-algebra>. Purchasing a copy of the textbook is not required.

### Lectures

You will have access to video lectures for all of the content of the course. These videos can be found on Canvas and through the individual homework.

### Xronos

Xronos is an innovative online homework platform developed by the Ohio State University. Using this platform is completely free to students.

### Descriptive Keys

Computer-generated keys are released after each exam that *describe the types of mistakes associated to each option*. [You can find previous semester's exams here.](#)

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## Materials You Need for the Course

Here is a list of what you absolutely need for the course. **If you do not have one or more of these things, please contact the coordinator.**

- Computer with strong internet access
- Chrome browser
- Admin privileges to install/uninstall Chrome extensions
- Computer camera
- Test-taking room
- Scientific, non-graphing calculator

## Course Structure

This is a [Mastery-Based course](#) that will allow you to progress at your own pace as you show mastery of the content. One of the benefits to this model is that you will not be forced to keep pushing forward in the course when you do not know the fundamental material! All of the lectures will be provided via video online.

The content of this course is divided into **12 modules: 8 core modules and 4 advanced modules**. Approximately once every week, you will have the opportunity to show mastery in up to 2 modules (**referred to as “Progress Quizzes”**). If you show mastery, great! If not, you will be able to retry the module again during the next quiz. In this model, tests are no longer high-stakes assignments where a bad day could sink your grade.

## Proctored Assessments

### Progress Quizzes

These quizzes check your progress on learning material in the course. You will take the 2 Modules you are on during each of these times. **You will have a 2-day window to take each Progress Quiz through Honorlock.** You do not need to make an appointment to take the quiz. Schedule of quizzes can be found on Canvas.

### Final Exam

This is a cumulative, 2-hour, 25 multiple-choice question exam over Modules 1-8 (Core Modules). **All students with a grade higher than an E are expected to take the exam between December 15<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup> through Honorlock.**

## Non-Proctored Assessments

### Weekly Assignments

Weekly assignments are meant to keep you engaged in the course and provide the small group interactions you would get if the course met in person. **Weekly Assignments are due by 11:59pm EST Sundays.** Exact dates are provided in Canvas for each assignment.

### Core Modules Homework

This is your online homework system for the majority of the course. **Everyone is expected to complete at least 80% of the Core Homework by the last day of class, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm EST.**

### Advanced Modules Homework

This is the online homework associated to one of two advanced content paths you could take in the course. You are only expected to work in one path! **Students who master at least one Advanced module are expected to complete some portion of the Advanced Homework by the last day of class, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm EST.**

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## Grade Breakdown

Rather than calculating points and percentages, your grade in this course is primarily based on meeting certain thresholds. This is known as [Specifications Grading](#) and is commonly used with mastery grading models.

Your base letter grade is determined by the number of Modules you master during Progress Quizzes. Other assignments modify your base letter grade: missing an assignment threshold lowers your letter grade by 1/3 letter while exceptional performance on the Final Exam (80%+) raises your letter grade by 1/3 letter.

### **Base Letter Grade Thresholds:** *Mastery through Progress Quizzes*

- A:** 8 Core Modules, 4 Advanced Modules
- B:** 8 Core Modules, 2 Advanced Modules
- C:** 8 Core Modules
- D:** 6 Core Modules

### **Other Assignment Thresholds:** *Missing a threshold lowers your letter grade by 1/3 letter*

- **Core Modules Homework:** 80%
- **Advanced Modules Homework:** 20% x (# of Adv. Modules mastered)
- **Weekly Assignments:** 80%
- **Final Exam:** 60%

*University policy stipulates that a minimum grade of a C must be achieved to obtain Gordon Rule or General Education credit. UF grading policies are at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.*

## Attendance, Late, and/or Missed Work Policies

- All homework assignments on Xronos will be due **December 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm EST**. There will be no make-up or extensions for these assignments as they are available all semester long.
- Progress Quiz make-ups are available once a month. Students do not need a university-approved reason to take a make-up. Scheduled make-up periods are meant to reduce the stress of potentially missing a quiz and are not a way to take more than 10 Progress Quizzes.
- You will have a 2-day window to take each Progress Quiz through Honorlock. These periods will not be extended for any reason. Instead, there will be 2 make-up quiz periods where students can take missed Progress Quizzes.
- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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- Athletes who anticipate missing numerous Progress Quizzes should contact the coordinator to set up an alternative schedule for their quizzes. **Makeups will not be provided after the last day of class.**

## University Policies and Assistance

### Students with Disabilities should do the following:

1. Register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation.
2. Email <mailto:jtsmit4@ufl.edu> and <mailto:qingchaozhang@ufl.edu> your accommodation letter, along with any additional information.
3. Additional time will be provided on Honorlock. **There is no need to take your exams through the DRC.**

***This should be done as early as possible in the semester. However, you can submit your accommodation letter to the coordinator at any point in the semester.***

**Academic Honesty:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the course coordinator or TAs in this class.

**Online Course Evaluation:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluations are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**Campus Resources:** The following resources are available to all students.

**U Matter, We Care:** If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)** Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. **University Police Department**, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

**UF Student Success:** *For improving study skills to connecting with a peer tutor, peer mentor, success coach, academic advisor, and wellness resources, go to* <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>.

**Teaching Center Math Lab:** Located at SE Broward Hall (and LIT 215). Offers free, informal tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/tutoring/>

**Private Tutors:** A list of qualified private tutors for hire is available on the UF math website <https://math.ufl.edu/courses/> under Advising and Help with Courses.