Course Description and Overview
In this course we will cover points, lines, planes, angles, proofs, congruent triangles, parallel lines, quadrilaterals, similar polygons, right triangles, circles, constructions using a compass and straightedge, area, and volume. Many of these topics are covered extensively on achievement tests such as the ACT and SAT. We will also use Geometer’s Sketchpad to discover and reinforce certain topics. Upon successful completion of this course, most students go into Advanced Algebra.

Equipment Needed
- Textbook: Larson, Boswell, Kanold, Stiff, *Geometry*
- A section in your 3-ring binder (or a folder) labeled “Geometry” or a separate 3-ring binder for geometry. Keep your work organized with sections for HW, tests and quizzes, class work, and Sketchpad activities.
- A pencil case that holds pencils, a ruler (with cm and inches), a protractor, a compass, and a calculator. (Buy a good compass that will survive in your pencil case/book bag/locker.)
- A supply of loose-leaf paper and graph paper (4 or 5 squares per in on the graph paper)

Homework
We are sure you have heard that math is not a spectator sport. You learn by reading the material and doing the problems. Doing the homework carefully should be a major part of your effort in this course. See the separate sheet on how homework should be completed.
At the beginning of each chapter you will be given an Assignment Sheet. Keep it in your 3-ring binder. The assignment sheet will also be posted at http://people.ucls.uchicago.edu/~jscroll/
Give yourself time to read each section carefully and learn new definitions, postulates, and theorems.
Homework is graded on a 2-1-0 scale. It will be worth about 15% of your overall grade. Keep your completed HW in your binder to study for tests and quizzes.
There will usually be an extra credit assignment for each chapter. A sheet will be distributed describing what is required for completion of this assignment. They are due on a particular day and will not be accepted late.

Class Participation
The first five minutes of class are the most important. Be on time or be early. If you have questions on the homework from the night before, write the number of the question on the board immediately at the beginning of the class, not after we have started to answer HW questions.
You are expected to participate in class discussion and behave in a manner conducive to learning. That means you should not be doing HW from other classes in geometry and you should be paying attention to the lesson. Be prepared to explain problems to other students or to ask questions. Your performance in these areas will be considered in your grade, especially when the grade falls on the borderline such as A-/B+, B-/C+.

Quizzes and Tests
Quizzes and tests are usually announced on the assignment sheet. There will be a Final Exam that covers the entire course in June. No equipment (calculator, compass, straightedge, protractor, etc.) may be shared during a test or quiz.

Project
In the third quarter, there will be a project that will involve outside class time for preparation and participation. Details will be announced in the spring.

September 2009
Grades  Your quarter grade will be determined by the percentage of points earned in the quarter. Your grade on the final exam will be included in your third quarter average. In general, the grading scale is

\[
A = 90\% - 100\%, \quad B = 80\% - 89\%, \quad C = 70\% - 79\%, \quad D = 60\% - 69\%
\]

The grade for the year will be determined from your percentage of total points for all three quarters. The points possible on the final exam generally make it worth about 15% of your total grade for the year.

The Geometer’s Sketchpad  In this course, you will learn to draw figures with the traditional tools of geometry, a compass and a straightedge. You will also use computer software to draw geometric figures and use them to make conjectures and formulate theorems. These GSP assignments will have two parts that must be completed and turned in: an electronic version which you and your partner will email to the teacher and a written version that must be turned in by each student (not one paper for you and your partner). These assignments will be worth points like HW so if you are absent from class you will have to complete the lesson on your own in the computer room and turn it in to the teacher the next day. You may choose to purchase the Student Edition of the Geometer’s Sketchpad for use at home for about $30. Details will follow later.

Absences  If you are absent, it is your responsibility to complete the assignments on time, including any Sketchpad exercises. Remember that you are given an assignment sheet at the beginning of each chapter and the assignment sheet will also be available online. If your absence is prearranged (for a field trip or extended trip, for example), it is best to complete the assignment before you go. If you miss class for extra vacation, it is your responsibility to learn the material on your own. **If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, you should see your teacher on the day you return to school** (whether or not your class meets.) You are expected to make up missed tests and quizzes on the day that you return to school.

Extra Help  We encourage you to come for extra help when necessary. You can make an appointment to see us outside of class. Or, just check in the math office UH201 to see if we are free. Our schedules are listed below. If neither of us is available, you can politely ask any other math teacher for help or see the math tutor in the library (times available TBA). There are also extra practice and tutorials available from the book publisher at this web address. You can go there, read some of the explanations, and try some of the exercises:


Study Habits Necessary for Success

- Take pride in your work
- Complete the assignments on time.
- Show carefully all the steps in solving problems.
- Use the answers in the text honestly.
- Ask questions and go for extra help when needed.
- Participate in group work and class discussion.
- Explain concepts to other students.

Especially for Geometry

- Give yourself time to learn thoroughly each definition, postulate, and theorem and how they apply to the figures we study.

If you work hard, you will be successful in this course and enjoy it.

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