**IV. Course Assessment**

**Assignments–** There are three parts to the homework assessment which will be submitted as hardcopy. Part 1- preclass work will be handed in at the beginning of each class, part 2 will be handed in at the end of class. Part 3- section homework will he handed at the beginning of the class following the class it is covered.

**Part 1** is intended to encourage you prepare for class by completing a worksheet prior to class. Each worksheet asks you to explain the objectives of the section in your own words, address a few vocabulary words or concepts and then work some odd problems from the text. The odd problems are used so you may check your answers in the back of the book. I will collect these worksheets at the beginning of class. All the lines available in the writing section must be filled in with useful information of your choosing and the problems must be attempted. You must show or explain your work to get credit, not just give the answers. These assignments will be assessed with a check or minus depending upon your effort. **These assignments will count for extra credit** instead of being graded. If you complete all the assignments with checks you will get a grade increase at the end of the quarter. For example if you have a 3.7 your grade will be increased to a 3.8, grade. etc. I do not expect you to teach yourself the material, but if you attempt this section you will definitely come to class in a much better position to learn the material covered and participate with your partners during class. The corollary is also true. (What is the corollary?)

**Part 2** will include assigned problems from the textbook and/or worksheets completed in groups (usually pairs or threes) during class. The worksheets will also serve as an attendance taking mechanism. The purpose of the class worksheets is to encourage cooperative learning as a teaching/learning strategy. Research is clear, when we work together cooperatively with our peers we are better able to learn difficult concepts, and practice routine math procedures more effectively, versus working alone or competitively. Cooperative learning will be the back bone of this class. I will collect assignments at the end of each class or after the worksheet has been completed. In class work will count for 20% of the course grade. **I expect to have 20 worksheet so each one will count 1% of your grade**.

**Part 3** consists of odd problems done after class for homework. These problems consist of almost all the odd problems that were not completed in part 1 or 2 above. I will collect these at the beginning of the next class after we have covered the material. There will be 20 worksheets here also for 20% or your grade, so how much will each worksheet contribute to your final grade?

**The pre-class worksheets are required for you to receive HW credit**. However the pre-class worksheets do not adversely affect your grade. It is the effort you make that determines if you get credit on a pre-class worksheet

Summary: If you work on all three parts described above you will be extremely well prepared for the tests which count 10% each toward your final grade. Also, I expect the class will be more interesting if you come prepared and we may almost be able to have fun in class sharing our knowledge and approaches to solving algebra problems. Math by itself can be boring when we concentrate on process and basic skills. I hope the social aspects of the cooperative learning environment will make learning math interesting and much more personal.

**Tests –** You will have 5 tests and a final exam, of equal weight. If you wish to improve your grade or miss a test I will offer a makeup test that must be completed with 2 weeks of the original test. If you have a 90 average on the five chapter tests, and you have completed all the homework and preclass assignments, you may elect to exempt the final exam. If you exempt the final your grade will then be based upon the five chapter tests.

**Testing procedure -**  You will have sufficient time to complete each test. When you are finished you will need to place your answers on a separate sheet provided. I will check your answers and indicate which are correct with a check and which ones are incorrect by circling the problem number. Your mistakes may be minor arithmetic types or major conceptual ones. A circle does not indicate the degree or type of mistake made. You may make corrections to all the incorrect problems and resubmit the test. If you get above a 70 after corrections I may ask you to continue to attempt additional corrections. The test grade is based upon your last corrections. If you do not pass the test or wish to improve your grade you may take a makeup test within two weeks, usually outside of class. The final score on the original test or the higher score from the makeup test will be final grade on each test.

Course grades will be based upon the following percentages:

Five tests and final exam- 60% Homework- 20% In class worksheets- 20%

Grades are assigned to the following schedule:

% GPA % GPA % GPA % GPA

95-100 4.0/A 89 3.4/B+ 79 2.4/C+ 68-69 1.4/D+

94 3.9/A- 88 3.3/B+ 78 2.3/C+ 67 1.3/D+

93 3.8/A- 87 3.2/B+ 77 2.2/C+ 66 1.2/D+

92 3.7/A- 86 3.1/B+ 76 2.1/C 64-65 1.1/D

91 3.6/A- 85 3.0/B 75 2.0/C 63 1.0/D

90 3.5/A- 84 2.9/B **74 2.0/C** 62 0.9/D

83 2.8/B 73 1.8/C- 61 0.8/D-

82 2.7/B- 72 1.7/C- 60 0.7/D-

81 2.6/B- 71 1.6/C- 0-59 0.0/F

80 2.5/B- 70 1.5/C-

In order to move to the next Math level, you must pass with at least a 2.0