

**School for New Learning**  
**DePaul University**  
**Course Name: SW 205 Practical Algebra**  
**Faculty Designed Independent Study**

Faculty: John Hemmerling  
Academic Advisor  
E-mail: jhemmerl@depaul.edu  
Phone: 312-476-4358  
Fax: 630-548-1963  
Location: Independent Study

Credit Hours: 2

**Course Description**

This course covers algebraic concepts and computational skills ranging from basic variable representation to solving equations and deriving/using advanced mathematical formulas to solve financial problems. The basic skills needed for comprehension will be reviewed as each new concept is introduced. Calculators will be used throughout the course. A scientific calculator with the “log” function is the most useful.

**About the Instructor**

John Hemmerling began his career with SNL as an academic advisor in 1992. He began teaching courses at SNL in 1997 and has been nominated for an excellence in teaching award two times. He has a BS in Mathematics (Chicago State) and a MA in Math Education (DePaul).

**Competencies**

S-2-X Can use mathematics to solve problems.

1. Knows basic algebraic theory.
2. Uses algebraic theory to solve problems.

Students demonstrate this competence by applying algebraic methods to solving common mathematical problems.

F-X Can use mathematics to describe and solve real world problems.

1. Knows basic mathematical theory.
2. Uses mathematical theory to solve problems in everyday life.

Students demonstrate this competence by applying mathematics to real world problems.

**4. Learning Experience**

The course is organized into 6 modules. There is a supporting website for each module that includes written course materials, interactive exercises, practice problems with solutions and supplemental material. Students will review the material in each module, practice the methods presented by working with the interactive exercises and practice problems provided. When students have mastered these methods, they contact the instructor to take the module quiz.

There is also a reference text that students can buy if they want an alternate source of information.

**Text:** Practical Algebra: A Self-Teaching Guide, Second Edition,

This book is not required. There are materials provided for each module that cover the concepts introduced in the module. The text is a good resource and there is a guide provided on each module website to help you find the topics covered in that module.

### Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. Understands the symbolic system presented in algebraic equations so that indicated relationships have an attainable meaning.
2. Can perform basic algebraic operations including manipulating algebraic formulas and equations.
3. Has ability and confidence to think deductively and numerically about relationships among operations, numbers and variables.

By the end of this class, students will be able to:

- Use the basic algebraic properties.
- Solve linear equations.
- Use, manipulate and create formulas.
- Use a calculator to evaluate formulas and functions.

### Evidence the Students will Submit

Students will take a quiz for each module to assess learning after they complete the practice assigned. Grades are based on these quiz scores and are assigned as follows.

<b>Grading Scale</b>	
90% - 100 %	A
80% - 89 %	B
70% - 79 %	C
60% - 69%	D
Less than 60%	F

Any grade lower than C- is unacceptable for the SNL program. Students can opt for a Pass/Fail grade but must earn a 70% or higher to receive the passing grade. A passing grade does not factor into a students GPA but a failing grade does.

### Class Schedule

This class is a Faculty Designed Independent Study. The work for this class should be completed in the quarter that the student has registered for the class. An extension can be granted only if the student requests it from the instructor. See the Incomplete Policy below.

Modules 1-5 were each developed to be completed in 5 to 7 days. Module 6 was designed to take 10 days. There is no set schedule for the class, however, so the student is responsible for completing the work for all 6 modules in the 11 weeks of the quarter.

### DePaul University Academic Integrity Policy

DePaul University is a learning community that fosters the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas within a context that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others and for society at large. Violations of academic integrity, in any of their forms, are, therefore, detrimental to the values of DePaul, to the students' own development as responsible members of society, and to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Violations include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or misuse of the

university's academic resources; alteration or falsification of academic records; and academic misconduct. Conduct that is punishable under the Academic Integrity Policy could result in additional disciplinary actions by other university officials and possible civil or criminal prosecution. Please refer to your Student Handbook or visit <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/homehandbook.html> for further details.

### **DePaul University Incomplete Policy**

Undergraduate and graduate students have two quarters to complete an incomplete. At the end of the second quarter (excluding summer) following the term in which the incomplete grade was assigned, remaining incompletes will automatically convert to "F" grades. In the case of the Law School incompletes must be completed by the end of the semester following the one in which the incomplete was assigned. Ordinarily no incomplete grade may be completed after the grace period has expired. Instructors may not change incomplete grades after the end of the grace period without the permission of a college-based Exceptions Committee. This policy applies to undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. NOTE: In the case of a student who has applied for graduation and who has been approved for an Incomplete in his or her final term, the incomplete must be resolved within the four week grace period before final degree certification.

n.b. The SNL student who wishes to receive the grade of IN must formally request in writing that the instructor issue this grade. This request must be made before the end of the quarter in which the student is enrolled in a course.