The Structure of the Courses.

(This information applies to both Trigonometry and Calculus I students. Please read it carefully.)

Well, here we go.

Although I wish it weren't the case, because of circumstances this course will be taught entirely in an on-line format. I would very much prefer it were face-to-face, but that ship has sailed, so there are a new set of parameters for how I'll be structuring the class.
First, I'm NOT going to be using the D2L system († see note below). There are a couple reasons for that, but none of that matters from your perspective. The only part of that system I'm using is a message to get you to my Web Page which is where you found this document. Once you have found and have access to my web page, you NEED NOT be dealing with D2L for the remainder of the course.

ALSO VERY IMPORTANT: **FOR THIS COURSE, THERE IS *NO REQUIREMENT* FOR YOU TO BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT THE NORTH HARRIS (OR ANY OTHER) CAMPUS AT ANY TIME DURING THE SEMESTER.**

If you are able to
(1) access my home page,
(2) access either a hardcopy or electronic version of the text (you DO NOT need any computer homework access codes of any kind),
(3) open PDF documents, and
(4) access Zoom meeting software (the free version is sufficient)
you have all the electronic support you'll need. If you cannot obtain all four of these, you're not likely to succeed.

The class will be video based. I will be making video lessons/lectures of all the topics. They will largely mimic lectures that would ordinarily be delivered in a face-to-face class.

You should watch the lessons, making notes as you would if the class were in person. I will try to keep the pace of the course similar to what an ordinary, in-person class would be: as if we were meeting twice a week, 1 hour and 20 minutes for the Trigonometry sections and 2 hours and 20 minutes for the Calculus sections. My recommendation is that you regard it similarly, as this will help you keep on track, not fall behind, and be prepared for the exams when they start to roll around.

For nearly every section of the text there will be an assignment of problems to work from that section of material. Any item assigned as homework should be considered something you should be able to do on an exam.
The homework is assigned SOLELY as practice for the exams. You will NOT turn in the homework for a grade. You should keep it, correct it, and regard it as practice for the exams.

I will set up zoom meetings where you can ask questions about homework. To that end, you'll need to sign up for a Zoom account rather like everyone else in the universe has these days. The free version of Zoom will be sufficient. That's what I have. I will post on my web page the access code you need to join the meetings.

I plan to have zoom meetings for each section. The schedule is as follows: (all times Houston time)

Trigonometry	Monday	10:00 am – 11:20pa
	Monday	1:00 – 2:20pm
Calculus I	Tuesday	10:00 am – 11:20pa
	Monday	1:00 – 2:20pm

A few points regarding the Zoom meetings:

* The structure of the Zoom meetings is rather like recitations at university – that is, they are to give you the chance to ask questions on homework items and on topics covered in the video lessons.
* Understand that "attendance" at these Zoom meetings is **absolutely voluntary**. If you have no questions, you need not "attend". If you have only one or two questions, you may ask them then leave or stay as you wish. If you wish to simply listen to questions asked by others (as we used to say in grad school, "mooch of other peoples' questions") you are welcome to do that.
* Note that if I start the session and there are no students, I will wait for ten minutes of so and if no one shows in that time, the session will end. Also, if after answering questions for, say thirty or forty minutes for example, and there are no more questions, the session will end.

The Zoom sessions will start on August 30 & 31. I will post the Zoom codes on my web page. The codes will be the same for the entire semester. There are likely to be a couple days when the Zoom meetings will not be held. For example, THERE WILL BE NO ZOOM SESSIONS ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 6 DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. Here is the schedule for the week of September 6:
Monday, Sep 6: No Zoom sessions
Tuesday, Sep 7: Calculus I Zoom sessions as regularly scheduled.
Wednesday, Sep 8: Trigonometry Zoom sessions 10:00am – 11:20am & 1:00 – 2:20

Again, if there are any other sudden or unexpected delays you should always first look to the web page for your class to find information.

The primary purpose of the Zoom meetings is for you to ask questions. I'll answer as many as I can and as time allows.

When exam days roll around, there will NOT be any Zoom sessions on Exam days.

IF YOU ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE TIME SET FOR YOUR CLASS, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCEED IN THE COURSE, AND YOU WILL NEED TO SECURE A DIFFERENT CLASS.

My understanding is that it is occasionally common practice in an on-line course for there to be a window of several days for you to complete an exam **THAT WILL NOT BE THE CASE IN THIS COURSE**. THERE WILL BE A **SPECIFIC TIME WINDOW** FOR YOU TO COMPLETE EXAMS. INFORMATION REGARDING THESE TIMES WILL BE COMING SOON.

More details regarding scheduling will be coming soon. It in important that you check in to the class web page frequently to stay informed on announcements as they arise.

This is likely to be a bit rocky at the start. Please be a little patient with me as I work through the rough patches.

Finally (for now), as I mentioned earlier, this is not how I would prefer to teach the course, but it's what we have. I'll try to work with you to help you succeed, but please bear this is mind:

<u>You're going to need to bring some game</u>.

If these WERE face-to-face classes, we would be meeting for around THREE HOURS (TRIG) OR around FOUR AND A HALF HOURS (CALC I) each week, and you would (ideally) be committing a couple more hours each day for homework. That's upwards of 15 hours per week. You are going to need to discipline yourself to commit the time required to succeed. You cannot get behind or you won't be able to survive the avalanche. So, whether it's Trigonometry of Calculus I, let's see if we can't work together to get you through. One good thing for me: each of these is one of my favorite courses to teach. Hopefully together we can make it, if not your favorite course, at least one you're pretty good at.

More info later. Take care of yourself.

Mr. Egley

† You might receive some notificaitons regarding D2L, however you may effectively ignore them.