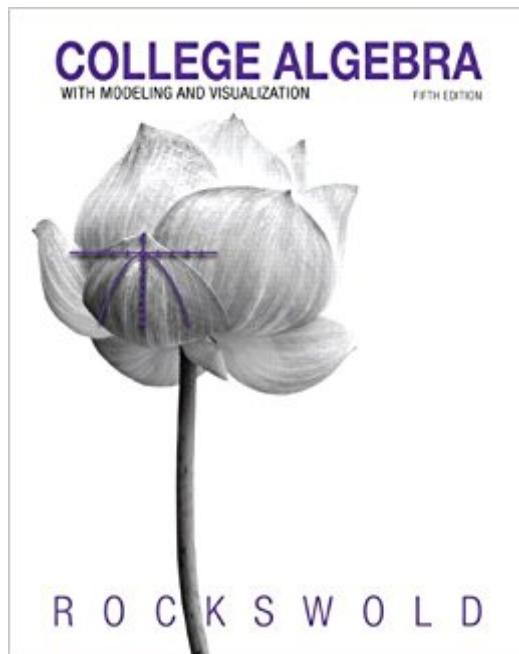


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College Algebra With Modeling & Visualization (5th Edition)



Synopsis

By connecting applications, modeling, and visualization, Gary Rockswold motivates students to learn mathematics in the context of their experiences. In order to both learn and retain the material, students must see a connection between the concepts and their real lives. In this new edition, connections are taken to a new level with "See the Concept" features, where students make important connections through detailed visualizations that deepen understanding. Rockswold is also known for presenting the concept of a function as a unifying theme, with an emphasis on the rule of four (verbal, graphical, numerical, and symbolic representations). A flexible approach allows instructors to strike their own balance of skills, rule of four, applications, modeling, and technology.

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Customer Reviews

I'm a math instructor at a community college and have been unfortunate to have to use this text for a College Algebra class, 3 semesters in a row. This text is the worst math textbook on Earth! It introduces "rules" without the necessary logical derivation/explanation so the students are "encouraged" to memorize without thinking. It lacks logical ordering and structure - the examples in

each section do not develop logically and gradually from each other but are presented usually in a haphazard order. I have to reorder them for class presentations. It lacks consistency - the summaries sometimes skip concepts that were covered in a section; the example problems often do not match the difficulty and variations in the homework; some types of problems simply do not appear at all in the Review sections. The lecture slides are often too succinct and insufficient, the videos are organized at the discretion of the presenter trying to compensate for the chaotic presentation in the textbook, the animations were written by 3rd party and are not synchronized with the textbook. It lacks depth - some variations of particular concept have no sufficient number of problems to train it (example: the need to isolate the absolute value on one side before solving equations or inequalities with it). The problems in the homework are not ordered by conceptual development or difficulty but are just lumped together in chaotic order within broad categories. When I make a homework set, I am forced to rearrange problems A LOT! I had to write a Study Guide for my students to counteract the chaos this textbook is creating in their heads.

Preface: I have an engineering degree, and I have taught a course (in MATLAB) to students with my own materials in the past. I have spent many hours over the last two months assisting a friend with a class using this textbook. This textbook is the worst math textbook I have ever encountered, period. The chapter headings and section names make no sense. There are literally chapters called "More Algebra" with a bunch of random topics thrown in which no names given to them (sequences, series, probability, combinations, and permutations). Each chapter starts with a "real world example", then jumps directly to examples with little to no explanation of the math. It goes through all the examples for the material, with tiny (often 1 sentence and 1 equation) sidebars of the actual math definition interspersed. The only even tiny bit of clear definition of the math involved is in a "bringing it all together" *table* which is AFTER all the examples. A table, with no elaboration at all. It's almost impossible to locate an important concept or definition, because they are in the little teeny tiny sidebars throughout the examples. It's impossible to tell what concepts are most critical or the foundation of what is going to be in a chapter, because the beginning of the chapter does not define or elaborate on them. The visual style of the book with lots of colors, tables, etc. further distracts from the material being presented. I would say this book spends a small amount of time on "real world modeling", a bunch of time on confusing examples, and almost NO time at all *actually teaching mathematical concepts in a coherent manner*. Find another pre-calculus book (which is what this actually is), don't both with this one.

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