

# MATH 71X – FALL 2010

## PRACTICAL INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Instructor: Alina Birca  
Email/Phone: **abirca@mtsac.edu** ; 909-594-5611 ext 5364  
Website: **www.timetodare.com** or <http://elearn.mtsac.edu/abirca/>  
Office: Building 61 – Room 1658  
**Office hours:** **M: 1:35 – 2:30 pm; W: 11:20 am – 12:00 pm & 1:35 – 2:30 pm;**  
**F: 11:00 am– 12:00 pm & 1:35 – 2:05 pm**  
Text: *Practical Intermediate Algebra, Edition 1.1 by Scott Guth*  
**Required Supplies:** A scientific calculator – officially this is the Texas Instruments TI30X MultiView (about \$15  
At Fry's, BestBuy, Staples or Office Depot)  
Section #21826 MW 7:00 – 9:30 pm (Bldg 61 – Room 2406)

---

### Course Content

This course is an Intermediate Algebra course which covers the topics of Intermediate Algebra, but in a more practical setting. Heavy emphasis is placed on skills which are required in statistics and applied sciences, with less emphasis on abstract topics. This course is designed for applied science students, and students who need to take Elementary Statistics. *This course is not designed for students who need Calculus or Trigonometry. Such students would be better served in a traditional Intermediate Algebra course.*

### Methods of Instruction

This course will combine lecture, teamwork, lab activities, and class discussion. Students will be required to do homework, group problems, quizzes, lab activities, and examinations.

### Attendance and Participation

Understanding math requires more than just reading a textbook. Listening and participating in the class activities are as important as solving problems. College policy requires that you attend every class meeting. Moreover, I do notice when you do not show up. If your grade is on a borderline, those with regular attendance are more likely to be on the higher side of the line. In addition, you miss the material from that day. **Do not be late to class.** The homework is due at the beginning of the class. You might also miss the quiz if you are late. NOTE: You the student are responsible for dropping the course should you decide not to continue in it. If you stop attending and doing the work and you fail to drop, you will receive a failing grade in this course. **You may be dropped from this class if you miss class during the first two weeks of instruction.** Your seat will be given to a student who has been attending each day.

### Prerequisites

There is an official prerequisite for this course (Math 51 – Beginning Algebra), and I expect that you demonstrate beginning algebra skills (properties of real numbers, polynomials, exponents, absolute value, factoring, evaluating algebraic expressions, linear and quadratic equations). It is your responsibility to know the prerequisite material when you register for this class.

### Study time & Extra help

You are expected to study two hours outside class for every hour in class - that is at least 10 hours a week. If you have trouble completing assignments or understanding the mathematics, get help as soon as you need it. Free tutorial services are available at MARC in building 61, first floor (Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm). On Saturdays, you may use the Learning Assistance Center, Building 6, room 101.

### Late Work

Be prepared with all assignments on the day they are due. As a rule, I do not accept late written work nor are there any make up tests or quizzes.

### Academic Honesty

Plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. There will be a zero on the assignment and risk failing the course.

## Calculators

A graphing calculator is NOT REQUIRED for this class! All of the problems I will assign this semester will be done using paper, pencil, ruler and a scientific calculator. No graphing calculators are allowed during the tests. No cell phones are allowed during the tests.

If you have a phone or pager, please turn it to vibrate and sit close to the door in case you need to use it in an emergency. Loud food and food wrappers are not allowed in class (you can eat only if we can't hear you!) No glass beverage containers are allowed. .

---

## Organization, Grading and Requirements

You will need a 3-hole binder with 3 separators, labeled as follows:

### LECTURES

### HOMEWORK

### TESTS & QUIZZES

- **LECTURES** – Pay attention in class to what I say and do, and make careful notes. In particular, note the problems I work on the board, and copy the complete solutions as well as the theory presented in each section. Work as neatly as you can. Write your symbols clearly, and make sure the exercises are clearly separated from each other. Do not hesitate to ask questions in class. It is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. There are always other students with the same question who are too shy to ask.
- **HOMEWORK** – Before you start on homework assignments, rework the problems I worked in class as well as all examples from the textbook . This will reinforce what you have learned. Make sure you check your previous work against the solutions posted on my website. Print out the solutions from my website for your reference.
- Keep all quizzes and tests that are returned to you in your binder. Use them when you study for future tests and for the final exam.

Assignments in the course are divided into five areas and are worth a total of 1000 points. Those earning 900 points or more will be awarded an A, 800 to 899 points a B, 700 to 799 points a C, 600 to 699 points a D and less than 599 points an F.

### Homework and Quizzes 100 points

**Homework** and reading will be assigned each day. I will collect the homework at the midterms – the material which is being covered on the exam will indicate which assignments are to be collected. When turning your homework in, please follow all directions. Homework is due at the beginning of the class. Late homework will not be accepted for any reason. You are encouraged to discuss assignments with your classmates; however, you are required to write up your work independently. Copied homework will not be tolerated and identical, or nearly identical, assignments will share a single homework score. I will make every effort to address homework questions in class as time permits.

**Homework quizzes** may be given at random from the material covered in class and homework. There is no make-up quiz. Please feel free to visit me during office hours or contact me by email if you need additional help.

### Tests 600 points

Three tests will be given over the major areas addressed in the course. Each test is worth 200 points. For an exercise to be complete there needs to be a detailed solution to the problem **No proof, no credit given!**

### Activity Labs 60 points

Six activity labs are scheduled for this course. These involve data gathering with scientific instruments and analysis. These activities are required. There is no make-up lab. Each project is worth 10 points

### Comprehensive final 240 points

The final is a 2 ½ hour exam and it is held on Monday, December 6. The final is a cumulative exam. You may use the final exam percent score to replace your lowest test score (a test with a score of zero cannot be replaced by the final score). You must take the final to pass this class.

## Tentative Class Schedule

DATE		TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Monday	August 23	1.1	
Wednesday	August 25	1.2, 1.3	
Monday	August 30	1.3, 1.4	
Wednesday	September 1	1.4, 1.5	
Monday	September 6	<b>Holiday (Labor Day)</b>	
Wednesday	September 8	1.6, 1.7	
Monday	September 13	2.2, 2.3	
Wednesday	September 15	2.3, 3.1	
Monday	September 20	<i>2.1 Lab Activity @ 8:30 pm</i> Review Test 1	
Wednesday	September 22	<b>Test #1</b> 3.1	Homework
Monday	September 27	3.2, 3.3	
Wednesday	September 29	3.4	
Monday	October 4	3.5, 3.6	
Wednesday	October 6	4.2	
Monday	October 11	<i>4.1 Lab Activity @ 8:30 pm</i> 4.3	
Wednesday	October 13	Review Test 2 4.3, 4.4	
Monday	October 18	<b>Test #2</b> 5.2	Homework
Wednesday	October 20	5.2, 5.3	
Monday	October 25	<i>5.1 Lab Activity @ 8:30 pm</i> 5.4, 6.2	
Wednesday	October 27	6.2, 6.3	
Monday	November 1	<i>6.1 Lab Activity @ 8:30 pm</i> 6.3	
Wednesday	November 3	6.4, 7.2	
Monday	November 8	7.2, 7.3	
Wednesday	November 10	7.3, 7.4	
Monday	November 15	<i>7.1 Lab Activity @ 8:30 pm</i> 7.4, 7.5	
Wednesday	November 17	Review Test 3 7.6	
Monday	November 22	<b>Test #3</b> 9.2, 8.1	Homework
Wednesday	November 24	9.2, 9.3	
Monday	November 29	<i>9.1 Lab Activity @ 8:15 pm</i> 9.3	
Wednesday	December 1	Review Final Exam	
		<b>FINAL – Monday, Dec 6 7:30 – 10:00 pm</b>	

## Grade Sheet

Homework 1		
Homework 2	+	
Homework 3	+	
Homework Quizzes	+	
Homework Quizzes	+	
Homework Quizzes	+	
	+	
	+	
<b>HOMEWORK, NOTES &amp; QUIZZES</b>	=	<b>/100</b>
Activity Lab 1		/10
Activity Lab 2	+	/10
Activity Lab 3	+	/10
Activity Lab 4	+	/10
Activity Lab 5	+	/10
Activity Lab 6		/10
<b>ACTIVITY LABS</b>	=	<b>/60</b>
Test 1		/200
Test 2	+	/200
Test 3	+	/200
<b>TESTS</b>	=	<b>/600</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	=	<b>/240</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	=	<b>/1000</b>