

MATH 71 – FALL 2011

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Instructor: Alina Birca
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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: *Intermediate Algebra* (5th edition) by Blitzer
Student Access Kit Recommended. It is available bundled with your textbook or as a standalone item.
Section #20237 MWF 12:00 – 1:35 pm (Bldg 61 – Room 2414)

Course Objectives

Intermediate Algebra is a second semester study of basic methods in algebra with an emphasis on modeling and problem solving. A common thread through this course is the idea that any problem in basic algebra can be addressed through the use of: (1) relations between expressions using operations on numbers and variables; (2) tabulated data; (3) visual displays (graphs). Some of the course objectives are:

- the ability to model problems or phenomena by algebraic expressions and equations;
- the ability to consider a problem using algebraic, numerical, graphical, and verbal methods;
- the ability to write an algebraic expression from a verbal description, to recognize trends in a table of data, and to extract and interpret information from the graph of a function.
- the ability to apply mathematical techniques to study and understand new situations;
- a thorough understanding of functions (linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic).
- a thorough understanding of sequences and the binomial theorem.
- the ability to recognize the behavior and characteristic properties of parabolas, circles, ellipses, and hyperbolas.
- the ability to apply studied principles and skills to new situations in addition to situations that mirror those on the homework and those shown in class.

Methods of Instruction

This course will combine lecture, teamwork, and class discussion. Students will be required to do homework, group problems, quizzes 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 and that day's quiz. 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. If you miss class, are late more than 15 minutes, or leave early during the add period, you will be dropped and someone on the waiting list will be added. If you are absent three times or more, you may be dropped from the class. Being late or leaving early counts as half a 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 20 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 T-MARC in building 61, first floor .

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. Thank you.

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 and MyMathLab. 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 four 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 & Mini quizzes 100 points

Homework and reading will be assigned each day (see Tentative Class Schedule). Staple each section separately, as I might collect and grade only some of the assigned sections. Homework is due at the beginning of the class. Read carefully all the directions from the homework handout. Late homework will not be accepted for any reason. Sloppy homework will not be graded. 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 also give you 5 to 10-minute mini quizzes. The mini quizzes are given from the examples done in class and from the textbook examples. I will make every effort to address homework questions in class as time permits. Please feel free to contact me by email if you need additional help.

Quizzes 210 points

Three quizzes will be given (see Tentative Class Schedule). They may be given at the beginning or at the end of the class. These quizzes will be similar to the exercises and examples done in class as well as homework problems assigned from the topics covered up to that point. For an exercise to be complete there needs to be a detailed solution to the problem. Do not just write down an answer. **No proof, no credit given!** Each quiz is worth 70 points.

Tests 405 points

Three tests will be given over the major areas addressed in the course. Each test is worth 135 points. For an exercise to be complete there needs to be a detailed solution to the problem **No proof, no credit given!**

Comprehensive final 285 points

The final is a 2 ½ hour exam and it is held on Monday, December 12. The final is a cumulative exam. If you qualify (homework & mini quizzes score must be at least 70%), you may use the final exam percent score to replace your lowest test score. However, 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 29	1.1, 1.2, 1.4	
Wednesday	August 31	1.5, 1.3,	
Friday	September 2	1.6, 2.1	
Monday	September 5	Holiday (Labor Day)	
Wednesday	September 7	2.2, 2.3	
Friday	September 9	2.4, 2.5	Homework #1
Monday	September 12	3.1, 3.2	
Wednesday	September 14	3.3	Quiz 1
Friday	September 16	4.1, 4.2	
Monday	September 19	4.3, 4.4	
Wednesday	September 21	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	
Friday	September 23	Review	
Monday	September 26	Test #1	Homework #2
Wednesday	September 28	5.4, 5.5	
Friday	September 30	5.6, 5.7	
Monday	October 3	6.1, 6.2	
Wednesday	October 5	6.3, 6.4	Homework #3
Friday	October 7	6.6	
Monday	October 10	6.7, 7.1	
Wednesday	October 12	7.2, 7.3	
Friday	October 14	7.4	Quiz 2
Monday	October 17	7.5, 7.6	
Wednesday	October 19	7.7	
Friday	October 21	8.1	Homework #4
Monday	October 24	8.2	
Wednesday	October 26	8.3	
Friday	October 28	Review	
Monday	October 31	Test #2	
Wednesday	November 2	8.4	
Friday	November 4	8.5	Homework #5
Monday	November 7	9.1	
Wednesday	November 9	9.2	
Friday	November 11	Holiday (Veteran's Day)	
Monday	November 14	9.3	
Wednesday	November 16	9.4	
Friday	November 18	9.5, 9.6	Quiz 3

Monday	November 21	10.1	
Wednesday	November 23	10.2	Homework #6
Friday	November 25	Holiday (Thanksgiving)	
Monday	November 28	10.3, 10.4	
Wednesday	November 30	10.5	
Friday	December 2	11.1	
Monday	December 5	11.4	
Wednesday	December 7	Review	
Friday	December 9	Test #3	Homework #7
		FINAL – Monday, December 12 10:30 am – 1:00 pm	

Grade Sheet

Homework 1		
Homework 2	+	
Homework 3	+	
Homework 4	+	
Homework 5	+	
Homework 6	+	
Homework 7	+	
Homework quizzes	+	
	+	
	+	
HOMEWORK	=	/ 100
Quiz 1		/70
Quiz 2	+	/70
Quiz 3	+	/70
QUIZZES	=	/210
Test 1		/135
Test 2	+	/135
Test 3	+	/135
TESTS	=	/405
FINAL EXAM	=	/285
TOTAL	=	/1000