MATH 71 – SPRING 2007
INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Instructor:	Alina Birca
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Website:	**www.timetodare.com** or http://elearn.mtsac.edu/abirca/
Office:	Building 40 – Room 145
Office hours:	**MW: 10:50 – 11:30 am & 4:25 – 5:20 pm; F: 1:05 – 1:55 pm**
Text:	*Intermediate Algebra* (4th edition) by Blitzer
Student Access Kit	Recommended. It is available bundled with your textbook or as a standalone item. See more details on last page of the syllabus.
Section #96509	MWF 11:30 am – 1:05 pm 40 – 129

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. **You may be dropped from this class if you miss class during the first 2 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. My office hours are listed above. Free tutorial services are available in MARC.

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 <u>scientific calculator</u>.

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 <u>the exercises are clearly separated from each other</u>. 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 150 points

Homework and reading will be assigned each day. Homework will be collected eleven times (see due dates on the Tentative Class Schedule). Staple each section separately, as I will collect and grade one or more of the assigned sections. Each homework is worth 15 points. The lowest score will be dropped. <u>Read carefully all the directions from the homework handout.</u> Homework is <u>due at the beginning of the class</u>. Late homework will not be accepted for any reason with the following exception: you are allowed ONE grace period until the next class period for ONE assignment. 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 <u>identical, or nearly identical, assignments will *share* a single homework score</u>. I will make every effort to address homework questions in class as time permits. Please feel free to visit me during office hours, make an appointment with me, or contact me by email if you need additional help.

Quizzes 200 points

Four 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 given from <u>exercises and examples done in class</u> as well as <u>homework problems</u> 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 50 points.

Tests 390 points

Three tests will be given over the major areas addressed in the course. Each test is worth 130 points. 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!**

Comprehensive final 260 points

The final is a 2 ½ hour exam and it is held on Tuesday, December 12th from 10:30 – 1:00 pm. The final is a cumulative exam. You may use the final exam percent score to replace your lowest test score. You must take the final to pass this class.

Tentative Class Schedule

DATE		TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Monday	February 26	1.1, 1.2	
Wednesday	February 28	1.4, 1.5	
Friday	March 2	1.3, 1.6	
Monday	March 5	2.1, 2.2	Homework #1
Wednesday	March 7	2.3	
Friday	March 9	2.4	
Monday	March 12	3.1, 3.2	**Quiz 1** Homework #2
Wednesday	March 14	3.3	
Friday	March 16	4.1, 4.2	
Monday	March 19	4.4	Homework #3
Wednesday	March 21	Review	
Friday	March 23	**Test #1**	
Monday	March 26	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	
Wednesday	March 28	5.3, 5.4	
Friday	March 30	5.5, 5.6, 5.7	
Monday	April 2	6.1, 6.2	Homework #4
Wednesday	April 4	6.3, 6.4	
Friday	April 6	6.6, 6.7	
Monday	April 9	7.1, 7.2	**Quiz 2** Homework #5
Wednesday	April 11	7.3, 7.4	
Friday	April 13	7.5	
Monday	April 16	7.6	Homework #6
Wednesday	April 18	7.7	
Friday	April 20	Review	
Monday	April 23	**Test #2**	
Wednesday	April 25	8.1	
Friday	April 27	8.2	
Monday	April 30	8.3	Homework #7
Wednesday	May 2	8.4	
Friday	May 4	8.5	
Monday	May 7	9.1	**Quiz 3** Homework #8
Wednesday	May 9	9.2	
Friday	May 11	9.3	
Monday	May 14	9.4	Homework #9
Wednesday	May 16	9.5, 9.6	
Friday	May 18	Review	
Monday	May 21	**Test #3**	

Wednesday	May 23	10.1	
Friday	May 25	10.2	
Monday	May 28	**Holiday – Memorial Day**	
Wednesday	May 30	10.3, 10.4	Homework #10
Friday	June 1	10.5	
Monday	June 4	11.1	Homework #11
Wednesday	June 6	11.4	**Quiz 4**
Friday	June 8	Review	
		FINAL – Monday, June 11: 10:30 – 1:00 pm	

Grade Sheet

Homework 1		/15
Homework 2	+	/15
Homework 3	+	/15
Homework 4	+	/15
Homework 5	+	/15
Homework 6	+	/15
Homework 7	+	/15
Homework 8	+	/15
Homework 9	+	/15
Homework 10	+	/15
Homework 11	+	/15
HOMEWORK (best 10)	=	**/ 150**
Quiz 1		/50
Quiz 2	+	/50
Quiz 3	+	/50
Quiz 4	+	/50
QUIZZES	=	**/200**
Test 1		/130
Test 2	+	/130
Test 3	+	/130
TESTS	=	**/390**
FINAL EXAM	=	**/260**
TOTAL	=	**/1000**

Each student is encouraged to enroll in MyMathLab in order to study. Extra credit quizzes may be available during the semester.

Each student needs a student access kit to enroll. The student access kit is available bundled with a textbook or as a standalone item (ISBN 013147894X) at your bookstore or online at www.coursecompass.com

MyMathLab is an interactive website where you can get online access to: E-text, Lecture Videos, Live Tutors, Practice Tests and Tutorials, Personal Diagnostic, Flashcards, and more!

- Self-test to improve your math skills.
- Study more efficiently by creating personalized study plans with exercises that match your book.
- Get help when you need it. Includes multimedia learning aids like videos and animations.
- **Do your homework.**

What do I need to get started?

- **A valid email address.** Don't have one? Every student has been assigned an email address and password. Call Mt. SAC Telephone Registration System at 909-595-6722 and select the option to hear the email address and password. You may access your Mt. SAC email at http://mymail.mtsac.edu
- **Course ID: birca84758**. This ID is for Blitzer, Intermediate Algebra 4/e (Math 71)
- **Student Access Code**
  Don't have it yet? If your new textbook was not bundled with a Student Access Code, you need to go to your campus bookstore or the bookstore across the street from Mt SAC to buy the Student Access Kit for your textbook or you can purchase online access at www.coursecompass.com (go to Students – Register).

What steps do I take next?
Take the access card that was packaged with the text and follow steps 1 – 8 below.

1. Go to www.coursecompass.com and click on **Register.**
2. Enter your six-word student access code, school zip code and country.
3. Enter the Course ID _____ **(ask Alina Birca for this ID).**
4. Fill in the requested information, and then create **your unique Login Name and Password.** It's recommended that you use your email address as your login name.
5. Return to www.coursecompass.com and **log in**. At the Welcome page, click on the course you are taking: **Intermediate Algebra.**
   - To take a Sample Test, click on **Take a Test.**
   - To do your homework, click on **Do Homework.**
   - It is recommended you follow a **Study Plan.**
   - Get familiar with other links like Chapter Contents and Multimedia Library.
6. The first time you enter the site from your computer and anytime you use a new computer, click on the software Installation Wizard on the Announcements page or on the navigational buttons on the bottom left side of the screen. This wizard will walk you through the installation of the software you will need to use the MyMathLab resources. Note: the software is already installed in MARC. Check with your lab administrator.
7. Technical problems? Call Tech Support at 1-800-677-6337, Monday – Friday 9 am – 6pm EST.
8. Additional help can be found on the Announcements page by clicking on Student Help or viewing the tip sheet.

Don't forget, MyMathLab includes FREE access to the AW Tutor Center. Toll free 888-777-0463, Sunday to Thursday 5pm- 12 am EST.