MATH 71 – SPRING 2009
INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Instructor:	Alina Birca
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Office:	Building 61 – Room 1658
Office hours:	**MW: 11:50 am– 12:30 pm, 3:00 – 3:50 pm**
	F: 10:30 – 11:30 pm
Text:	*Intermediate Algebra (5*th edition) by Blitzer
Student Access Kit	Recommended. It is available bundled with your textbook or as a standalone item.
Section #122167	MW 12:30 – 3:00 pm (Bldg 61 – Room 2310)

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 droppe d from this class if you miss class during the first week 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 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, <u>I do not accept late written work nor</u> <u>are there any make up tests or quizzes.</u>

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>. 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 cle arly, 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 144 points

Homework and reading will be assigned each week. See due dates on the Tentative Class Schedule . I might collect and grade the homework or I might give you a 5 or 10-minute homework quiz. You may use your homework during the quiz. Staple each section separately, as I might collect and grade only some of the assigned sections. Homework is <u>due at the beginning of the class</u>. <u>Read carefully all the directions from the homework handout.</u> Late homework will not be accepted for any reason. The homework-quiz might be given at any time: at the beginning of the class, during the class, or at the end of the class. There is no make-up homework quiz. The lowest homework score will be dropped. 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</u> <u>*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 or contact me by email if you need additional help.

Quizzes 220 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 similar to the <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 55 points.

Tests 360 points

Three tests will be given over the major areas addressed in the course. Each test is worth 120 points. For an exercise to be complete there needs to be a detailed solution to the problem **No proof, no credit given!**

Comprehensive final 276 points

The final is a 2 ½ hour exam and it is held on Monday, June 8 . 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	February 23	1.1, 1.2, 1.4	
Wednesday	February 25	1.5, 1.3, 1.6	
Monday	March 2	2.1, 2.2, 2.3	
Wednesday	March 4	2.4, 2.5	Homework #1
Monday	March 9	3.1, 3.2	**Quiz 1**
Wednesday	March 11	3.3	Homework #2
Monday	March 16	Review 4.1, 4.2	
Wednesday	March 18	**Test #1** 4.3	Homework #3
Monday	March 23	4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3	
Wednesday	March 25	5.4, 5.5, 5.6	Homework #4
Monday	March 30	5.7, 6.1	
Wednesday	April 1	6.2, 6.3, 6.4	Homework #5
Monday	April 6	6.6, 6.7	**Quiz 2**
Wednesday	April 8	7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4	Homework #6
Monday	April 13	7.5, 7.6	
Wednesday	April 15	7.7	Homework #7
Monday	April 20	Review 8.1	
Wednesday	April 22	**Test #2** 8.1	Homework #8
Monday	April 27	8.2, 8.3	
Wednesday	April 29	8.3, 8.4	Homework #9
Monday	May 4	8.5, 9.1	**Quiz 3**
Wednesday	May 6	9.2	Homework #10
Monday	May 11	9.3, 9.4	
Wednesday	May 13	9.5, 9.6	Homework #11
Monday	May 18	Review 10.1	
Wednesday	May 20	**Test #3** 10.2	Homework #12
Monday	May 25	10.3, 10.4, 10.5	
Wednesday	May 27	**Holiday (Memorial Day)**	
Monday	June 1	11.1	**Quiz 4**
Wednesday	June 3	11.4	Homework #13
		FINAL – Monday, June 8 10:30 – 1:00 pm	

Grade Sheet

Homework 1		
Homework 2	+	
Homework 3	+	
Homework 4	+	
Homework 5	+	
Homework 6	+	
Homework 7	+	
Homework 8	+	
Homework 9	+	
Homework 10	+	
Homework 11	+	
Homework 12	+	
Homework 13	+	
HOMEWORK (best 12)	=	**/ 144**
Quiz 1		/55
Quiz 2	+	/55
Quiz 3	+	/55
Quiz 4	+	/55
QUIZZES	=	**/220**
Test 1		/120
Test 2	+	/120
Test 3	+	/120
TESTS	=	**/360**
FINAL EXAM	=	**/276**
TOTAL	=	**/1000**