

## **Math 131: Intermediate Algebra** **3 semester hours, Fall 2012**

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Office Hours: M/W 5pm-11pm, and/or by appointment

Materials: The book we will be using is *Intermediate Algebra*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition by Martin-Gay. We will cover selected portions of this text. **This book must be bought with the MyMathLab package, so that you will be able to do your homework online. If you've used the MyMathLab package during a (recent) previous semester (Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011) with this same book, you will not need a new student access code; instead, come see me for directions.** You will need a notebook for taking notes and storing handouts, exams, etc. All turned-in work must be done in pencil. I strongly recommend using a scientific calculator for this class and, in particular, that each student considers a T.I. graphing calculator for FUTURE courses.

Course Description:

Intermediate Algebra. This course may not be used to satisfy any mathematics or degree requirements. This course covers: Basic algebraic operations, equations and inequalities, polynomials, functions, rational expressions, exponents and radicals, quadratic equations, and graphing. This course is to prepare students for further study at the level of college mathematics.

Course Objectives:

1. Develop understanding of basic algebraic concepts.
2. Promote algebraic thinking and symbolic reasoning.
3. Develop and understand the function concept.
4. Use functions to represent and model problem situations and to analyze and interpret relationships.
5. Connect ideas within and between mathematical concepts.
6. Provide the basic foundation for College Algebra or other math courses.

Class Format: Class time will be spent in lecture, demonstrations, quizzes, group work, and tests. All work should be completed in pencil, please.

Homework: Homework will be assigned every class period. You are expected to do all problems online by the due date announced in class and listed online. **No late homework will be accepted past the due date.**

Quizzes: Approximately every week, there will be a quiz. These grades will be averaged with your attendance to create a "daily average".

Competency Exams: A competency exam will be given during class-time and will cover: Arithmetic and Solving Equations. (Calculators are not allowed.) This test must be passed with an 80% or better for the grade to be recorded. Scoring below 80% will result in a **zero** being recorded. Retake times can be scheduled with me or during my office hours. This test may be retaken up to 2 times per week. Tests must be passed with an 80% or better by **Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**, or a zero will be recorded and averaged into the final grade. **THIS IS WORTH TEN PERCENT OF YOUR GRADE**, so you do not want a zero averaged into your final grade. (That would drop you an entire letter grade!) NOTE: These skills are necessary for success in this and all future math courses.

Exams: There are four scheduled exams that will be given after completion of each chapter or section of material covered. **I do not give any make-up exams.** I will allow each student to drop their lowest test score and replace it with the percentage scored on the final exam's related section. Use this benefit wisely--this provision will only be applied to ONE exam grade. In addition to the in-class exams, all students will be asked to take the THEA exam as a pre-test and post-test for this course. These two attempts at the THEA will count as a test grade. **CELL PHONES AND OTHER SUCH DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND STORED OUT OF THE STUDENT'S REACH. The only electronic device allowed during tests and quizzes is a stand-alone calculator (such as a TI-34, TI-83, TI-85, etc.), and only with the instructor's permission. All exams must be completed in pencil; failure to complete your exam in pencil will result in a reduction of earned grade by 5 points.**

Final: The final exam will be a departmental, comprehensive exam. All students will take the exam at the same time. The final exam is scheduled for ***Tuesday, December 11, 2012, from 3:30pm – 5:30pm.*** Please note that this is an unusual time and make your arrangements to be present. Make-up final exams will not be allowed. Rooms are To Be Announced. Please pay attention in class for the location.

Special Needs: “The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Room 132, Gee Library, or call 886-5835.**”

Attendance, Continual Enrollment, and Developmental Suspension:

Math 131 in a non-credited course and each student must receive a “C” to move on to Math 1314, 1324, or 179. Due to the nature of this course, **attendance is a must to pass this class.** I will take roll every class period and it is expected that you follow the guidelines set forth by the Class Attendance Policy in the current Undergraduate Catalogue. Your attendance, along with your quiz and homework averages, will make up your “daily grade” for this course.

Also, all students should be aware that they are NOT allowed to drop a developmental math course, and that they must be continually enrolled in a math course until they have successfully completed their college-level math course. If, for some unfortunate reason, a student fails this course twice, they will be placed on Developmental Suspension and will not be allowed to enroll in classes for a year.

Please see the TSI contract at the back of this syllabus for further details concerning this process.

Academic Integrity: I find that a majority of students are honest in doing their school work.

However, we must take measures to protect the academic integrity of the classroom. **I have a NO TOLERANCE policy for cheating and if you are caught cheating, you will fail that portion of the course, as well as possibly the entire course.** Cheating in this course is defined as the following:

- Giving or receiving answers during an exam or quiz.
- Viewing the exam or quiz answers of nearby classmates.
- Having notes/practice work/etc. available during quizzes or tests.
- Possession or access to test items before the test is given.
- Deception in getting an excused absence to obtain the undeserved opportunity to make-up work.
- Use of cell phones or text messaging technology during exams or quizzes. **You may NOT use the calculator on your cell phones or any other similar electronic devices (such as I-Pods, I-Touch, etc.). IF ONE OF THESE DEVICES IS AVAILABLE, IN ANY WAY, DURING AN EXAM OR QUIZ, THE STUDENT WILL BE GIVEN AN AUTOMATIC “0” ON THE ASSIGNMENT. Also, Bluetooth and other devices placed in the ear (ear buds, etc.) will not be allowed.**
- Improper citations in written works, or using another person’s ideas and words as your own without giving proper credit.
- **Any** method, no matter how well rationalized or accepted, which improves a person’s grade by any means other than study and skillful performances on exams and/or other assignments.

Students found guilty of an act of academic dishonesty in this course will be subject to receiving an “F” in this course.

Math Skills Center: The Mathematics department has a Math Skills Center (Binnion 328) that is available to all students. Computer tutorials, video libraries and live tutors are there to help you with all subject matter in this course. I encourage you to take full advantage of this FREE service. Every Math 131 student is urged to attend the Math Skills Center in order to receive help in areas of math where the student may feel uncertain. To encourage attendance, any one of my students that log a MINIMUM of 12 hours in the Math Skills Center will receive two extra points on their final grade in this class.

**Hours: M/W 8am – 8pm, T/R 8am – 6pm, and F 8am – 3pm.**

Mach III/TRIO Program: The Mach III/TRIO Program is available for students who qualify for additional resources, such as private tutoring. In order to qualify, students must meet certain conditions, such as being a first-generation college student or other requirements. For more information, contact TRIO at 903-886-5833 or in the Halladay Student Services building, Room 301.

Mobile Tutoring Service: There is a new service available this semester at Whitley Hall, in the lobby area, on Tuesday nights from 6pm – 9pm. A math tutor will be provided from the Math Skills Center. Feel free to take advantage of this additional service.

Classroom Behavior:

Appropriate classroom behavior is required to attend this class. ***All cell phones and other such devices must be put on silent or turned off during class.*** Phones are a distraction for you, me, and the other students in the class. NOTE: THIS INCLUDES BLUETOOTH AND OTHER DEVICES THAT ARE PLACED IN THE EAR. All people will be treated with respect and I will not allow talking that will disrupt my lectures. If disruptions occur during class lectures, you will be asked to leave class and will earn a zero on any applicable grades for that class period. Serial disrupters will be asked to withdraw from my class. This will mean that you are withdrawn from school, entirely, since students are not allowed to be enrolled in school without a math course on their schedule.

**“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)**

<u>Grading Policy:</u>	Exams	50%
	Final	25%
	Competency Exams	10%
	Daily Grade	15%
	(Homework, Quizzes, and Attendance)	

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	90-100+	RA
	80-89	RB
	70-79	RC
	60-69	RD
	59-below	RF

**A grade of “RC” or above must be achieved to continue to Math 1314, 179, or 1324.**

Grade Reporting for Freshmen:

Grades for students in freshmen level classes will be reported to the Registrar’s Office at the end of the fifth week of class during the fall and spring semesters. The Registrar’s Office will report grades to students, Success Coaches, Academic Departments (faculty advisors) and mentors. This procedure will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester. The university, through Success Coaches, faculty advisors, and mentors, will take steps to assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. Early intervention for freshmen students is designed to communicate to students the University’s interest in their success and willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their objectives.

**BY REMAINING ENROLLED IN THIS COURSE, ALL STUDENTS AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE POLICIES OF THIS CLASS, AS STATED IN THE SYLLABUS.**

**Good Luck and WORK HARD!!!**