



Math 131: Intermediate Algebra, 3 semester hours, Course Syllabus for Fall 2015

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Software:

REQUIRED: The MyMathLab access code includes access to an e-book, so the book is optional but the MyMathLab access code is required. If you used the MyMathLab package during the previous semester for Intermediate Algebra, you will NOT need to purchase a new access code. You will use your old account with the new course ID as provided in class. If there are difficulties, you'll need to contact Technical Assistance with Pearson. 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 at least a scientific calculator for this class. As the course progresses, the use of a TI-83 or TI-84 is highly recommended (TI-89 and Inspire are not allowed). You will also want the TI calculator for your college-level course. In order to be able to do the online homework component, you will need access to the Internet.

OPTIONAL: The book we will be using is *Intermediate Algebra*, 6th Edition by Martin-Gay. We will cover selected portions of this text. Whether you purchase the book or not, you will need a MyMathLab access code in order to be able to do your homework.

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, and the grade **WILL** be used in the calculation of your GPA.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will be able to demonstrate their knowledge and application of basic algebraic concepts, as well as demonstrate an ability to think algebraically.
2. The student will demonstrate an ability to represent, model, and analyze expressions, equations, functions, and relationships.
3. The student will be able to proceed to the college-level course and be successful.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods:

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

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 unless special arrangements are made with the instructor ahead of time.** Homework can be accessed at <http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com/?cc>

Quizzes & Special Activities:

Throughout the semester, there will be quizzes. These grades will be averaged with your attendance to create a “daily average”. In addition, there will be special activities incorporated into the course. These activities may be developed into project-type activities and will also be counted in your daily average.

Competency Exams:

A competency exam will be given during class-time and will cover arithmetic and basic equation solving. (Calculators are not allowed.) This test must be passed with an 80% or higher for the grade to be recorded. Scoring below 80% will result in a **zero being recorded. The competency exam may be retaken outside of class time in the Academic Testing Center, up to 3 times per week. (The Academic Testing Center is located in Ferguson (Social Sciences) 308, and has the following email address for setting up appointments: atc@tamuc.edu)** Tests must be passed with an 80% or higher by **Friday, February 28th**, or a zero will be recorded and averaged into the final 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 unless pre-arranged and accompanied by a documented University-excused absence.** Instead, I will allow each student to drop their lowest test score in lieu of the percentage scored on the final exam’s related section. Use this benefit wisely--this provision will only be applied to ONE exam grade. **CELL PHONES AND OTHER SUCH DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND STORED OUT OF THE STUDENT’S REACH**

DURING AN EXAM. The only electronic device allowed during tests and quizzes is a stand-alone calculator (such as a scientific calculator, TI-34, TI-83, TI-84, 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 your earned grade by 5 points.

Exam Schedule:

Tests will be given at regular (as regular as possible) intervals throughout the semester, whenever a section of material is complete. Tentative testing dates are as follows, but subject to change:

Test 1 – Week of 2/3;	Test 2 – Week of 2/24;
Test 3 – Week of 3/31;	Test 4 – Week of 4/21

Final Exam

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, May 6, from 3:30pm – 5:30pm.** Please note that this is an unusual time and make appropriate arrangements to be in attendance. Make-up final exams will not be allowed. Rooms are To Be Announced. Please pay attention in class for the location.

GRADING

Grading Policy:

Exams	50%
Final	25%
Competency Exams	10%
Daily Grade	15%
(Homework, Quizzes, Projects, Tutoring, Special Activities, and Attendance)	

Grading Scale:

Note: All Intermediate Algebra grades are reported with an “R” in front of them to signify that they are not college-level.

90-100+	RA
80-89	RB
70-79	RC
60-69	RD
59-below	RF

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

Note: This course now counts in your GPA.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Students will be expected to interact with the instructor(s) in class or via electronic means in an appropriate manner. All instructor contact information is listed on this syllabus and should be used. Please use email to facilitate a quick response.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Technology Requirements:

Due to the use of MyMathLab for homework, all students will need to be able to access the Internet, whether through their own computer or access to a computer lab on campus. In addition, email access is required. Please utilize your A&M-Commerce email address, or make me aware of your alternate email address. In addition, a calculator is highly recommended. (See above.) Other electronic devices such as Cell Phones, Bluetooth headsets, iPods, iPads, Laptops, e-Cigarettes, and other devices as determined by the instructor and/or department, are NOT allowed to be used in this course.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Policies:

Attendance and Continual Enrollment:

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 average, homework, projects, tutoring, and special activities, 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. **NEW BEGINNING FALL 2012: The grade you receive in this course now counts in your GPA.** Therefore, all students should take this course seriously and make every effort to be in attendance and to be successful on the daily assignments and exams.

Tutoring Requirement:

Every Math 131 student is urged to attend tutoring in order to receive help in areas of math where the student may feel uncertain. To encourage attendance, we are requiring a **MINIMUM of 12 hours** in the Math Skills Center (or other verifiable university tutoring service such as TRIO, SI, or ASC). This will be counted in the daily grade portion of your final grade.

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. For more information, contact TRIO at 903-886-5833 or in the Halladay Student Services building, Room 301.

Math Skills Center: The Mathematics department has a Math Skills Center (Binnion 328) that is available to all students. **Hours: M/W 8am – 8pm, T/R 8am – 6pm, and F 8am – noon.** 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.

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, and 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.**
- 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.

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 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.

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.

University Specific Procedures:

Students with Disabilities:

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

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE/TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Tentatively, the following content will be covered during the following weeks. Changes to this schedule will be made during class, if needed.

Week 1	Introduction, Linear Equations in One variable, Problem Solving, Formulas
Week 2	Linear Inequalities, Intro to Functions, Competency Exam
Week 3	Graphing Linear Functions, Slope of a Line, Equations of a Line
Week 4	Exam 1 , Exponents and Scientific Notation
Week 5	Exponent Rules , Multiplying Polynomials, and Beginning Factoring
Week 6	Factoring Trinomials and Special Products, Solving Equations by Factoring

- Week 7 **Exam 2**, Rational Functions, Multiply and Divide Rational Expressions, & **LAST DAY TO COMPLETE COMPETENCY EXAM**
- Week 8 Add and Subtract Rational Expressions, Solve Equations with Rational Expressions

SPRING BREAK

- Week 9 Rational Equations and Problem Solving, Radicals and Radical Functions
- Week 10 Rational Exponents, Simplifying Radical Expressions
- Week 11 Add, Subtract, Multiply Radicals, **Exam 3**
- Week 12 Rationalizing Denominators, Radical Equations, Complex Numbers
- Week 13 Solving Quadratics by Completing the Square and by Quadratic Formula
- Week 14 Solving Equations by Quadratic Methods, **Exam 4**
- Week 15 Review for Final
- Week 16 Final Exam

Remaining enrolled in this course constitutes acceptance of all policies contained in this syllabus.

Any changes to this syllabus will be communicated directly to you in class by the instructor.
You are responsible for being aware of any such changes.

Good luck and work hard!!