Math 131: Intermediate Algebra, 3 semester hours
Course Syllabus for Spring 2018

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Office Hours: Mon & Tues 3:30-5:00, Thurs 3:30-5:30, and/or by appointment

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. Please note: we used a NEW version on the 131 textbook this past Fall, so if you used MyMathLab in this course in the past Fall or Spring, you may re-use your account from then. However, if you used MML before that, you WILL need to purchase a new access code. 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 we move further in the material. 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, 7th Edition by Martin-Gay (ISBN 0134208854-9780134208855 for the loose-leaf book OR 0134197216-9780134197210 for the hard back). 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 as a part of your “daily grade”. You are expected to do all problems online by the due date announced in class and listed online. In general, 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, homework, and projects to create a “daily grade”. 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 grade”. In general, these quizzes must be taken the day assigned.

Pre-Requisite Skills Check/Quiz:

A pre-requisite skills check, or quiz, (skills check) will be given during class time and will cover arithmetic and basic equation solving. (Calculators are not allowed.) This skills check must be passed with an 80% or higher for the grade to be recorded. Scoring below 80% will result in a zero being recorded. However, the pre-requisite skills check may be retaken outside of class time in the Academic Testing Center, up to 2 times per week. (The Academic Testing Center is located in Ferguson (Social Sciences) 308, and is walk-in only.) Pre-requisite skills checks must be passed with an 80% or higher by Thursday, March 1st, in order to receive credit for the skills check. Passing the skills check with an 80% or higher will add TWO POINTS to your final score in the class (this is a HUGE advantage, as it is equivalent to approximately 20-25 points on an exam). All students should strive for these bonus points in this course!! NOTE: These skills are pre-requisite skills that are necessary for success in this and all future math courses.

Workshops (Math 0099 Sections – Bridge Program):

All students enrolled in this section of Math 131 are co-enrolled in a section of Math 0099, which is the workshop (or lab) attached to this course. These workshops are a built-in opportunity for students to ask questions about homework, bring in specific questions over what their Math 131 instructor covered in class, receive additional tutoring, and see extra examples. Students will be able to solidify their math knowledge in a more informal atmosphere. Please come ready to work and interact with other students about math. The instructors in the lab sessions will bring plenty of activities. These workshop hours count toward tutoring hours, as well.

Exams:

There are four scheduled exams that will be given after completion of each chapter or section of material covered. In general, 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 replace their lowest test score by using the percentage scored on the final exam’s related section of material (if the section on the final exam results in a higher grade for you). 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 an approved, 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 2/5 | Test 2 – Week of 3/5 |
| Test 3 – Week of 4/2 | Test 4 – Week of 4/23 |

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 8, from 3:30pm – 5:30pm**. Please note that this is an unusual time and make appropriate arrangements to be in attendance. Do not expect a make-up exam for the final exam. Rooms are To Be Announced. Please pay attention in class for the location.

**GRADING**

Grading Policy:

- Exams: 50%
- Final: 25%
- Workshop Grade: 10%
- Daily Grade: 15%

(Homework, Quizzes, Projects, Tutoring, Special Activities, and Attendance)

**Note:** students who score 80% or higher on the Pre-Requisite Skills Check will have TWO POINTS added to their final average.

Grading Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100+</td>
<td>DVA</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>DVB</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>DVC</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>DVD</td>
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<tr>
<td>59-below</td>
<td>DVF</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**A grade of “C” (DVC) or above must be achieved to continue to a college-level course such as Math 1314, 179, 1324, or 1342.**

**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” (DVC) or higher to move on to Math 1314, 1324, 1342, 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 should 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, ASC, or the online tutoring service provided). 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. Students may qualify by meeting a variety of conditions. For instance, one way to qualify is by 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 Success Center:** Tutoring in the library. See the university web site for schedules.
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.**
- 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 and/or other disciplinary actions as decided by the instructor and/or department.**

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 dealt with individually, including referral to the Dean of Students. If you are withdrawn from this course as a result of disruptions, you will be withdrawn from school, entirely.

University Specific Procedures:

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.

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 162, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

**Anti-discrimination:** A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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Mission for the Department of Mathematics: Discovering the Keys to Success
**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).*

**Campus Concealed Carry:**
**Texas Senate Bill - 11** (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) and/or consult your event organizer. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### COURSE OUTLINE/TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week #1</td>
<td>1/15 – 1/19</td>
<td>Introduction, Linear Equations in One variable, Problem Solving, Formulas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #2</td>
<td>1/22 – 1/26</td>
<td>Linear Inequalities, Intro to Functions, <strong>Competency Exam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #3</td>
<td>1/29 – 2/2</td>
<td>Graphing Linear Functions, Slope of a Line, Equations of a Line</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #4</td>
<td>2/5 – 2/9</td>
<td>Exponents and Scientific Notation, &amp; Exponent Rules</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #5</td>
<td>2/12 – 2/16</td>
<td>Multiplying Polynomials, and Beginning Factoring &amp; <strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #6</td>
<td>2/19 – 2/23</td>
<td>Factoring Trinomials and Special Products, Solving Equations by Factoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #7</td>
<td>2/26 – 3/2</td>
<td>Rational Functions, Multiply and Divide Rational Expressions, &amp; <strong>LAST DAY TO COMPLETE COMPETENCY EXAM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #8</td>
<td>3/5 – 3/9</td>
<td>Add and Subtract Rational Expressions, Solve Equations with Rational Expressions &amp; <strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<td>Week #9</td>
<td>3/19 – 3/23</td>
<td>Rational Equations and Problem Solving, Radicals and Radical Functions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #10</td>
<td>3/26 – 3/30</td>
<td>Rational Exponents, Simplifying Radical Expressions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #11</td>
<td>4/2 – 4/6</td>
<td>Add, Subtract, Multiply Radicals, <strong>Exam 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #12</td>
<td>4/9 – 4/13</td>
<td>Rationalizing Denominators, Radical Equations, Complex Numbers</td>
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<td>Week #13</td>
<td>4/16 – 4/20</td>
<td>Solving Quadratics by Completing the Square and by Quadratic Formula</td>
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<td>Week #14</td>
<td>4/23 – 4/27</td>
<td>Solving Equations by Quadratic Methods, <strong>Exam 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #15</td>
<td>4/30 – 5/4</td>
<td>Review for Final</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week #16</td>
<td>5/7 – 5/11</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM – TUESDAY, MAY 8th</strong>, 3:30pm – 5:30pm *<strong>NOTE:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Special Time!!</strong>*</td>
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**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!!**

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