

Math 123
Intermediate Algebra
Syllabus
Fall 2003

Instructor: Kelly Locke

Office: C262

email: klocke@jafar.hartnell.edu

Or find me in the **Math Lab:**

Office phone: 755-6758

Office Hours: MW 12-1, T 10-11

8-9, 11-12 or 1-2 MWF or 11-12:30 T TH

Required Text: Dugopolski, M. (2002). Intermediate algebra, 4th ed. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Prerequisite: Math 121 (Beginning Algebra) with a grade of C or better. If you do not meet this prerequisite, please see me as soon as possible!

Welcome!

Welcome to Intermediate Algebra! In this syllabus you will find all of the information you will need about the course. Please read it carefully and keep it handy. You will want to refer to it often for due dates of assignments and online assessments, test dates, my contact information, and information about grading.

As you know, this course is the prerequisite for all the transferable math classes. So your success in this course is very important!

Course Description

This course is a continuation of Beginning Algebra. We will be reviewing some of the topics you have already seen, including real numbers, linear equations, quadratic equations, polynomials, rational expressions, functions and graphing. But don't let the review fool you into bad study habits! We will take these review topics further and see more complicated problems and new techniques. There will be new topics as well. Exponential and logarithmic functions are an example of some of the new material. Finally, there will be an emphasis on applications and problem solving strategies. You will need the problem solving ability for the transfer level math class you take next.

Class Procedures and Rules

Please be on time to class! It is distracting to me and to others when students come in late.

Be courteous, set your cell phone to silent when you enter the classroom.

I do not accept late homework! You are able to miss one homework assignment without penalty. Use it wisely.

Staple your work before turning it in!!!!!!!

I do not give make-up exams! If you will have to miss an exam, contact me *ahead of time so we can make prior arrangements*.

We will usually start class with questions from the previous day's homework assignment. So while you are doing the homework, please make note of which problems you were unable to do. Have these problem numbers ready when class starts so that we can save time. A handy thing to do is to write these problem numbers at the top of your homework paper. That way it will be readily available AND you will know what to focus on when you study!

If you must miss class you are still responsible for the work for that day! Get notes and the assignment from a classmate. If something is due the next day you are still responsible for it. If something is due that day you are still responsible for it. If something is assigned that day you are still responsible for it. In other words, you are responsible for everything that happens in class whether you are there or not. The best solution is to ATTEND EVERY CLASS!

Course Requirements

Reading:

I expect you to read the section of your text that goes with each homework assignment. The examples will help you to complete the homework exercises. If you are having difficulty with a problem in the homework, go back to the section and look for similar examples. Often this will enable you to finish the problem!

I will give you more information about reading a math text in another handout. It is important that you learn to read technical materials like a math text. You will need this skill for your transfer level math class and you will need it to read and understand technical materials in your workplace.

Homework Exercises (100 points total):

Homework will be assigned at the end of each class. I expect you to complete it for the next class meeting. I will collect the homework for the entire week on Friday. It is your responsibility to leave it with me at the end of class on Friday. Don't wait for me to ask, just turn it in at the end of class on Friday! If you will be absent on Friday, you may make arrangements with me to turn in the homework early.

Please label each section and *staple* the packet together. Homework will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. You will earn credit if your homework is stapled, complete and well organized. I should be able to clearly see that each section assigned was completed. If you are unable to do a problem, you should leave space, ask about it during class or office hours and then fill it in before the homework is due.

I do not accept late homework! You may miss one homework packet without penalty. Use it wisely!

Quizzes (100 points total):

We will have some in-class quizzes and some at-home quizzes. You will be able to drop the lowest quiz score. I will not give make up quizzes. If you miss a quiz it will be the one that you drop. This is a good reason not to miss class!

Exams (100 points each):

We will have three exams. Here are the dates:

Friday Sept. 12 (chapters 1, 2 and 3.1-3.3)

Friday Oct. 17 (3.4-3.5, chapters 4, 5)

Friday Nov. 14 (chapters 6, 7 and 8)

I do not give make-up exams. If you cannot avoid missing an exam, please make arrangements with me ahead of time!

ALEKS (200 points total):

ALEKS is a web based learning system that you will be using in addition to your textbook. You can use ALEKS on any computer that is connected to the internet. The purpose of the system is to assess your knowledge of algebra, determine where you have gaps in your knowledge, and help you to fill in those gaps. Many of the difficulties people have in algebra come from not remembering previous topics. ALEKS will assist you in whatever review you need in order to be successful in Intermediate Algebra.

Participation--You must spend a minimum of three hours on the system each week. Each hour is worth 2 points for a total of 6 points per week. There are 16 weeks that you will be required to use ALEKS. That is a total of 96 points (plus I will throw in 4 free points to make it an even 100!) for ALEKS participation.

Your participation hours are due by 2:00 pm each Friday, starting on August 29th.

Performance--ALEKS performance is based on mastery of the topics. Mastery is determined by an assessment done on the ALEKS website. You will start with the Prealgebra topics. You must assess at 95% mastery of the Prealgebra topics by no later than 3:00 pm Friday, September 19th. This is worth 20 points.

Then you will move into review of the Beginning Algebra topics. You must assess at 95% mastery of the Beginning Algebra topics by no later than 3:00 pm on Friday, October 24th. This is worth 80 points.

After this you will move into the Intermediate Algebra topics. There is no ALEKS performance requirement for Intermediate Algebra, but you will need to continue working on the system to meet the participation requirement and to prepare for the final exam!

Final Exam:

The final exam is comprehensive. You should arrange a study plan and begin preparing for the final no later than December 1!

The final will be held on Wednesday, December 17 at 8:00 a.m.