YUBA COLLEGE ONLINE

MATH 52 – INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

FALL 2011

Introduction: This will be a full semester course, covering the same material as an Intermediate Algebra course you would attend on any of the Yuba Community College District campuses.

ONLINE MATH CLASSES ARE NOT EASY. You MUST have access to a good internet connection and purchase an access code to complete homework and quizzes online. You must also take two traditional exams, on paper, in person. A midterm roughly halfway through the semester, and the final exam at the end of the semester. More on this further down.

Two skills or abilities are critical to your success in this course. First, you must read effectively. In a traditional classroom, you will listen to me lecture and watch me work examples and verbally ask questions and endure my bad jokes in addition to reading the text. In the online environment, I will try to provide some other types of presentation, but the vast majority of information will be read by you online or from the text. So you must read everything I write or assign completely! If you are skimming this paragraph, and not really paying attention, BEWARE! You are giving in to a bad habit that will cause you to fail this class!! Second, you must discipline yourself to keep pace. This course is divided into 14 modules, each of which will be available to you for one week only. Within that time, you can work on the material any time of day or night you wish. By the end of the week, you will need to complete any homework assignments and take a quiz on the assigned module. Lecture material will remain available for review, but if you miss the homework and quiz deadline, you will not be able to make it up. So if you have dreams of ignoring this course until the last few weeks of the semester and then trying to cram it all in, it won't be happening that way. For a more thorough discussion of qualities needed to be successful in an online class, take a look at this page: http://www.yccd.edu/de/qualities.html

I MUST STRESS THIS AGAIN: AN ONLINE MATH CLASS IS SIGNIFICANTLY HARDER TO SUCCEED IN THAN A TRADITIONAL FACE-TO-FACE CLASS! Not due to the material, but rather the temptation to give in to poor work habits. You MUST spend time reading the material, and attempt the homework and quizzes early enough in the assignment period to go back and redo concepts that you have trouble with. It is very difficult to catch up if you let yourself fall behind!

However, if you keep pace and put the time in, doing well in this course is possible for virtually everyone.

Course Information:

Course Name: Intermediate Algebra
Course Code: D9512
Credit: 4 semester units

Contact Information:

Instructor :John Steverson
Address: Yuba College
2088 North Beale Road
Marysville, CA 95901
Office: Room 709
Phone: (530) 741-6909 (I rarely check my voicemail)
Email: jstevers@yccd.edu (I check email several times daily when classes are in session. An email is a much more reliable way to get a message to me than the phone)
Office Hours: M-F 10-10:50

Text and Materials:

Text: Beginning & Intermediate Algebra, 4th edition by Martin-Gay.

You will need, at the minimum, a valid MyMathLab access code and a scientific calculator. YES, YOU NEED A BOOK! But read on ...
The Yuba College Bookstore sells the text with an access code and several useful supplementary materials included. The cost is, unfortunately, quite high. If you choose to shop online for your text, please do so immediately ... I will not accept late assignments or quizzes if you're still waiting for your book to come weeks for now.
I do, however, have another option for you: You may buy the MyMathLab access code online, directly from the publisher for around $80, and MyMathLab contains an electronic version of the entire text within it. Caution: very few of you will

absorb the text material well by reading it on the computer. My most successful past students usually printed materials out rather than staring at the computer for endless hours ... You may use the e-text rather than purchasing a paper text, but the cost will be comparable by the time you factor in the session's supply of paper and printer ink, and consider the buyback of the regular text. The bookstore will buy a real text back from you, offsetting the high initial cost. No buyback if you use the e-text.

If you choose to buy your MyMathLab code online, you may do so at http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com Under "Register" on the right side of the page, click "student" and follow the directions. You will need my MyMathLab Course ID, which is: steverson84673.

Any scientific calculator will do. If there isn't one currently hiding in the bottom of your junk drawer, the TI-30X is a good choice for an inexpensive calculator. THE CALCULATOR IN YOUR PHONE, IPOD OR PDA IS NOT ACCEPTABLE WHEN WE TEST IN PERSON. I will not allow cellphones, iPods or PDA's to be used during the midterm or final.

Course Content and Format: We will cover all of chapters 6, 7, 10, 11, and 12 of the text, along with select sections of chapters 4, 13, and 8. This will comprise a review of factoring polynomials, working with rational expressions, radicals and rational exponents, quadratic equations and functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, conics, solving systems in 3 variables, composite functions and variation.

All course material will be available within MyMathLab Course ID steverson84673. If you already have MML access from a previous class, it is still good! Just enroll in this course number. If not, you will be asked for this number when you first use your MML access code (or when you purchase it online).

I've divided the material up into 14 modules of approximately 3 textbook sections each. Each module includes lectures written by me to supplement your reading of the sections in the textbook, followed by homework assignments and a quiz. The homework and quiz for each assigned module will only be available for you to work on for one week. If you are a go-getter that wants to work ahead, sorry, I won't open modules up early. If students get too spread out across the material, it makes it very difficult to give meaningful assistance to the whole class in an online environment. So it will take everyone the entire semester to complete the course. I will open a new module each week of the semester, usually on Sunday afternoon or evening. Once a module closes, you will still have access to my lectures and practice problem sets for review, however your HW and quiz scores will lock, and no additional work will modify them.

The only exception to this is Module One. Because of the scramble at the beginning of the semester to add/drop, get books, etc, our first module will be open for two weeks, giving you a chance to get your materials and get used to MML without being so rushed ... after that, however, every module will only be open for one week each.

Homework/Quizzes: Homework and quizzes will be taken within MyMathLab. There will be approximately 20 homework problems per section of material in the book. A module is usually three sections of book material. Each module quiz will be 10 questions, covering all the sections within that module. No extensions will be granted on due dates for any reason.

Grading: In addition to the homework and quizzes described above, there will be a midterm exam and final exam. THE MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS WILL NOT BE ONLINE. YOU MUST TAKE THESE EXAMS IN PERSON. PICTURE ID WILL BE REQUIRED. I will give the exams at Yuba College and Woodland Community College, in a classroom yet to be determined, but you may also test in the library of the Clear Lake campus, or the Beale Outreach Center. Dates and times of the tests are given below so you can arrange time off and transportation NOW, if necessary. If these dates conflict with another class, please contact me immediately. No late testing will be permitted for any reason. These will be the only two times you are required to attend this course in person.

20% of your grade will be based on homework, 20% of your grade will be based on the module quizzes, 30% on the midterm exam, and 30% on the final exam. Letter grades will be based on the following overall percentages:

A 90%and above

B 80% to 89%

C 70% to 79%

D 55% to 69%

F 54% and below

Important Dates:

8/15 First day of classes, online content available.

8/19 Last day to add without instructor signature

8/26 Last day to be eligible for a refund of fees.

9/5 Labor Day. Campus will be closed, and I will be unavailable online.

9/9 Last day to drop without a "W"

9/16 Last day to elect pass/no pass grading

10/21 Midterm Exam. 3:00pm to 4:50pm at YC. Room number to be announced.
WCC, Beale and CLC students, may test at their college/center, but must
schedule a time on 10/21 with their college/center.

11/11 Veteran's Day. Campus will be closed, and I will be unavailable online.

11/14 Last day to drop with a "W"

11/23-25 Thanksgiving. Campus will be closed, and I will be unavailable online.

12/9 Final Exam. 3:00pm to 4:50pm at YC. Room number to be announced.
WCC, Beale and CLC students, may test at their college/center, but must
schedule a time on 12/9 with their college/center.

Please note the dates and times of the Midterm and Final exams.

**I'm giving you these dates now so you can arrange to be available. Please
do not wait until two days before the exam and tell me you have to work. I
will try to make other arrangements for a test with you ONLY if you contact
me more than a week in advance.**