

Intermediate Algebra Part I Syllabus

Instructor: Sarah Kovacs
Course: Math 52A
Day/Time: M/W 2:30-3:45
Location: SF106
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MyMathLab login: www.mymathlab.com
Course ID: kovacs88204

Office Hours:
M/W 1:30-2:20
T 10:00-11:50
TH 2:00-2:50 (Online)

I will begin with 3 things:

One Everything is going to be ok. Some of you may have some concerns about taking a *Math* class. This is not going to be torture. I am not here to fail you or humiliate you. This is going to be a positive mathematical experience, even if you think you are “bad” at math.

Two Math can be enjoyable. You may even have fun in this class. I have made it a personal goal to help my students see that math can be interesting and sometimes even enjoyable.

Three Considering one and two, are you thinking this class is going to be a breeze? NOPE! Succeeding in math takes a great deal of work. I will do everything I can to help make this a positive mathematical experience for all of you, but in the end it is mostly on your shoulders. Expect to put in **at least 5 hours** a week outside of the classroom doing homework or studying. You can succeed but you need to put in a real effort.

Topics covered

Factoring polynomials, rational expressions, radicals, rational exponents and complex numbers.

Student Learning Outcomes 1. Perform operations on rational expressions 2. Perform operations on radical expressions 3. Solve a quadratic equation by factoring

Prerequisite: Math 101 with a grade of C or better or equivalent

Required Resources:

- Text: *Beginning & Intermediate Algebra with the MyMathLab Access code* by Elayn Martin-Gay, Pearson/Prentice Hall, 6th ed.
- Scientific Calculator

Grading

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| MML Homework | 20% |
| Quizzes | 15% |
| In-Class Assignments | 5% |
| Portfolio | 5% |
| Exams | 30% |
| Final | 25% |

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| Above 90% | A |
| 80%-90% | B |
| 70%-80% | C |
| 60%-70% | D |
| Below 60% | F |

MML Homework

You will be doing a majority of your homework online with a program called MyMathLab. When doing homework on MyMathLab, you will get immediate feedback on whether you are doing the question correctly or not. There are videos, animations, and other tutorial tools to help you while you are working through the exercises. You can also redo any exercises that you did incorrectly. You will need our course ID: [kovacs88204](#)

Each homework on MyMathLab (or from the textbook) is worth 2 points. You need to get 60% on a MML assignment to receive 1 point and 85% to receive 2 points. I will be dropping your two lowest MML homework score.

There is a one class session leniency period on the MML homework, but I will not accept MML homework after that.

Expect a lot of homework. Trying the math yourself is the only way to learn. This may take more time for some than others but everybody should expect at least 2 hours of homework for each hour of class session. I recommend doing homework every day rather than only Sunday night.

Quizzes

There will be daily quizzes at the beginning of each class session. These are short closed book quizzes covering material from the previous night's homework. Each quiz is worth 5 points. You cannot make up a missed quiz. I will be dropping your two lowest quiz scores.

In Class assignments

We will be doing daily in-class assignments at the end of each class. These are short open note, open book exercises that relate to the material we covered in class that day. You can work in pairs or groups. Each in-class assignment is worth 1 point. You can miss two without penalty.

Math Portfolio

You need to keep a math portfolio that contains all of your scratch work from MyMathLab, quizzes, in-class assignments, and exams. You need to make one correction from each quiz (unless it is 100% correct) and correct all exams. You will turn in the math portfolio four times during the semester on test days and the day of the final. Each portfolio submission is worth 5 points. I will be dropping your lowest portfolio score.

Exams

We will have three tests throughout the semester. These help me evaluate how much you know. Studying for tests can also help you bring together all the material we have covered in a certain period of time. Please don't let the tests stress you out. We will review. I will provide sample tests. With adequate effort everyone can be successful on the tests. Each test is worth 50 points.

Final

The final is comprehensive. We will review and I will do everything in my power to help all of you succeed. If you do your homework, go to class, and put in the required effort, the final will go well for you. The final is worth 100 points.

The final is Wednesday May 15th 12:00-1:50 No exceptions! You must take the final when scheduled unless you talk to me about it **the first week of class.**

Tentative Schedule

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| Jan 14 th Intro/Review | 16 th 6.1/6.2 |
| 21 st HOLIDAY | 23 rd 6.2/6.3 |
| 28 th 6.4 | 30 th 6.5 |
| Feb 4 th 6.6 | 6 th 6.7 |
| 11 th Review | 13 th Test 1 (Ch 6) |
| 18 th HOLIDAY | 20 th 7.1 |
| 25 th 7.2 | 27 th 7.3 |
| March 4 th 7.4 | 6 th 7.4/7.5 |
| 11 th 7.5 | 13 th 7.6 |
| 18 th 7.6/7.7 | 20 th 7.7 |
| 25 th Review | 27 th Test 2 (Ch 7) |
| Spring Break April 1 st -5 th | |
| April 8 th 10.1 | 10 th 10.2 |
| 15 th 10.3 | 17 th 10.3/10.4 |
| 22 nd 10.4/10.5 | 24 th 10.5/10.6 |
| 29 th 10.6 | May 1 st 10.7 |
| 6 th Review | 8 th Test 3 (Ch 10) |
| 13 th Review | 15 th FINAL 12:00-1:50 |

Academic/Classroom Etiquette

- Tardiness will not be accepted.
- Please turn off your cell phones before entering class. Please do not text during class.
- Please do not talk during class. You may be asked to leave the classroom if you are disruptive.
- Working together on homework is encouraged. Copying is plagiarism and is forbidden.
- Cheating on tests is a serious offense. If you are caught cheating you will receive a score of zero and be reported to the vice president. Repeated incidents of cheating can lead to expulsion.
- If you are absent for more than three classes in a row you may be dropped from the course.