Syllabus for: Math 380 Elementary Algebra

Semester & Year:	Spring 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	Math 380 – E2686
Number of Credits/Units:	5
Day/Time:	MWTh 6:05 – 7:40 PM
Location:	PS 201
Instructor's Name:	Elizabeth Buchanan
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: PS200 MWTh 5:00-6:00 & by appt Phone: 707-476-4100 ext 4846 Email: betsy-buchanan@redwoods.edu

Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline):
A study of the real number system, first-degree linear equations and inequalities, polynomial expressions and equations, factoring, radicals, quadratic equations and the quadratic formula, interpretation of graphs, and problem-solving techniques. Small group work and exploratory activities (including the use of the graphing calculator) are involved in this course.
Note: Graphing calculator required, TI-83 or TI-84 recommended.

Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :
1. Use properties of real numbers to solve linear equations, inequalities and systems of linear equations.
2. Solve non-linear equations by factoring.
3. Draw and interpret graphs and solve problems graphically.
4. Use sound mathematical writing and appropriate use of symbolism in presenting solutions of mathematical exercises and applications.

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College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.

Welcome to Math 380—Elementary Algebra—Spring 2013
Classroom Policies and Procedures

Course ID and Section Number:

MATH-380-E2686 MWTh 6:05 – 7:40 PM

Instructor: Betsy Buchanan

Office Location: PS 200, phone number 476-4100 ext. 4846

Email: betsy-buchanan@redwoods.edu

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 – 6:00 PM and by appointment.

My Math Lab Hours: Mondays 1:00 – 2:30 PM, Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:00 AM, Thursdays 11:30 – 1:00 PM

Required Text and Materials:

- Text – Free CD (see Textbook Info posted on MyCR site under Resources). You can also find it on the CR Math website at : http://mathrev.redwoods.edu/ElemAlgText/ .
  For a very reasonably priced bound copy, you can order at:
  http://www.lulu.com/shop/david-arnold/elementary-algebra/paperback/product-20276557.html .
  The Solutions Manual is also available at the same site:
  http://www.lulu.com/shop/david-arnold/elementary-algebra-solutions-manual/paperback/product-20276540.html.

- TI-83 or 84 Graphing Calculator- may rent for $20 from the Math Department
- Pencils and erasers
- Stapler with staples
- 8.5x11 paper
- Graph paper

Recommended Materials:

- Ruler (in a pinch, the side of a credit card or calculator works)
- Bound notebook with grid paper (like a composition book with graph paper instead of lined paper)

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Course Grading Scale:

Homework	20%
Class Participation	15%
Weekly Quizzes (Optimath or in-class)	15%
3 Exams	35%
Final	15%

Letter Grades will be assigned no stricter than the following:

A	93-100%	C+	77-79.9%
A-	90-92.9%	C	70-76.9%
B+	87-89.9%	D	60-69.9%
B	83-86.9%	F	0-59.9%
B-	80-82.9%		

Class Time: Class time is for issues that concern the entire class. It is not the time to discuss your grade, homework questions, or any other individual matters. Send me an email, call me, or come by my office during office hours to discuss these kinds of issues. We will spend the first 10-15 minutes of class time on homework questions from the previous class meeting's assignment. If you have more than a question or two from the assignment you will want to get some help outside of class.

Attendance: To succeed in a mathematics class, you need to attend every class meeting. Attendance is taken at every class. If you have to miss class, make prior arrangements with a fellow student to get any notes or materials covered that day. You are responsible for all the material covered, even if you don't attend class. Math Department policy regarding "Faculty Withdrawal After Census" is as follows: A student who is absent from class for the amount of time equal to two weeks of classes, will be withdrawn from the course, unless there are extenuating circumstances that are communicated to the instructor in a timely manner. This "faculty withdrawal" can occur between Week 4 and Week 10 of the semester. **This means if you miss more than 6 class sessions, you may be asked to retake this class.**

Homework: Homework will be posted on the MyCR site for this course, under Resources, throughout the semester. For each section from the textbook, there will be both a Part A and Part B assigned. Part A consists of 5 even-numbered problems, worth two points each. These problems will be carefully graded for completeness, neatness, and accuracy. Part B problems are odd-numbered problems and are worth a total of 2 points. I suggest you begin your homework doing the Part B problems, so you can check your answers at the end of the section to make sure you understand how to answer the problem and are doing it correctly. Both parts A and B need to be turned in separately. I will post assignments and due dates for each assignment as we cover the material. In general, homework is due the class meeting two class days after it is assigned. For example, the Section 1.1 homework assigned today, Monday, is due Thursday. On Wednesday at the start of class for 10-15 minutes, you will be able to ask questions on it. Homework is where you get to practice and receive feedback on using mathematical notation correctly. The students who do well in my mathematics courses are the ones who are consistently on top of their homework. The fundamental idea of a college course is to learn something, and the homework is where learning takes place. Part of these homework assignments will involve the use of the calculator.

Written homework should be **neatly done in pencil** and meet the following guidelines:

- Your name, homework section and problem numbers on the top right side of your paper.
- If multiple pages, staple in the upper left corner.
- Paper is to be folded lengthwise, with your name and homework section written on the outside.
- Begin each problem with the original problem (except story problems), show appropriate work, and the answer should be at the end of each problem. Work down the page.
- With story problems be sure to begin with assigning variables or a picture, and your answer should be written in a complete sentence at the end.

- Graphs made by hand (not sketched from calculator) need to be done on graph paper.
- Sloppy work will not be accepted. You need to present your work so it is readable.

Your grade will be based upon whether it looks like you did all the problems, whether you followed the guidelines given above, and whether you used notation properly as illustrated in your text and in class. For the Part B problems, please check your solution to odd problems in the text. Each Part A assignment is worth 10 points, and Part B is worth 2 points. Late homework for Part A will be accepted up to the day of the exam covering that chapter, with point deductions as follows: up to 1 week late: minus 1 point, 2 weeks late: minus 2 points, over 2 weeks late: minus 3 points. Part B homework will be accepted up to the day of the exam covering that chapter, with no points deducted for lateness.

Graded Papers: Papers, once I have graded and recorded them, will be brought to class and available to pick up before or at the end of the class. Please keep them. They are a good study tool, as well as proof that you completed the assignment.

Class Participation: Your presence and participation in class is essential for making this class successful. Your participation in activities and questions informs me, and you, of whether you understand the material. It is also where you will be learning and practicing mathematical language and grammar. Writing mathematics correctly is crucial to learning the mathematical content. Your participation grade will be based upon:

- Warm Ups/Practices some collected, some not
- Participation in class discussions and class activities
- Larger Group Activities

All but the larger activities are 5 points each per week. There is no way to do these ahead of time or make these activities up. You can also accumulate points by answering one of the homework questions put up on the board by one of your fellow students or sharing your work on the board when I seek volunteers in class.

Weekly Optimath Quizzes: There will be weekly Optimath quizzes assigned at the end of class on Thursdays and must be completed no later than midnight on the following Monday to receive full credit. These quizzes are done on a computer. They will usually be over the material we covered that week. You may repeat each quiz as many times as you want before the due date to get the quiz score you desire. The system also allows you to review each quizzes' solutions once completed so you can figure out exactly where you went wrong. Each time you repeat the quiz you will be presented with new questions of the same type. You still have a chance to make up any missed or low scored quizzes, with 10 percent (1 point) deducted for each week you are late. You will get a chance to work on the Optimath system in class the end of the first week or beginning of the second week to get comfortable with the system. Optimath can be found at http://mathrev.redwoods.edu/cgi-bin/online/s13/OTlogin.cgi. Each quiz is worth 10 points each and there will generally be 10 questions per quiz.

Exams: There will be 3 Exams given during the semester, covering two chapters each, plus a cumulative Final Exam. See the "Tentative Schedule" on this class' MyCR site for when these are tentatively scheduled. Make-ups are given at the instructor's discretion.

If you miss an Exam, or do poorly on one of these, your percentage on the Final will replace that Exam's score.

The cumulative final is scheduled by the college for Wednesday, May 8th at 5:30 – 7:30. We will also have an optional review session during finals week on Monday, May 6th at 5:30 – 7:30. Do not plan on leaving town before your scheduled final.

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones need to be turned off. If you must leave your cell phone on put it on vibrate in your pocket and sit next to the door. Be sure to quietly exit the classroom and move away from the door quickly before answering. If I decide that you did not answer your cell phone respectfully or your phone rings out loud in class, you need to bring treats for everyone the next class meeting to express your sincere apology. I also reserve the right to deduct points from your class participation points. Texting is not permitted at any time. Texting distracts you at the time but negatively impacts the learning environment for

everyone around you as well, including myself. The reason being is that when I give the class problems to work on or have you work in groups, you are left clueless as to what you are supposed to be doing.

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I reserve the right to modify this syllabus.