Syllabus for: Math 120: Intermediate Algebra

Semester & Year:	Spring 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	Math 120 Section E2696
Number of Credits/Units:	4
Day/Time: **Location:**	MW 1800-1950 PS 115
Instructor's Name:	Tyler Belarde
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: TBA Phone: TBA Email: tyler-belarde@redwoods.edu

Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline):
A course in which functions are investigated graphically, numerically, symbolically and verbally in real-world settings. Linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic equations and functions are explored. Technology is integrated into all aspects of the course.

Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :

1. Evaluate and interpret general functions symbolically, numerically, and graphically.
2. Produce an accurate graph of each function type introduced in the course, identifying and plotting all salient features.
3. Demonstrate appropriate use of technology in analyzing the behavior of functions presented in the course.
4. Use mathematical models to analyze and interpret real-world situations.
5. Use sound mathematical writing and appropriate use of symbolism in presenting solutions of mathematical exercises and applications.

Special accommodations: College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.

Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an "F" in the course.

The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: http://redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%205500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.pdf

Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods homepage.

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.

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Class Sessions: MW 1800-1950 in PS115

TOPICS: Math 120 is a course in which functions are investigated graphically, numerically, symbolically and verbally in real-world settings. Linear, quadratic, absolute value, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic equations and functions are explored. Technology is integrated into all aspects of the course.

PREREQUISITES: Math 380 (Elementary Algebra) with a grade of "C" or better, or satisfactory performance on the math assessment exam. Prerequisites will be enforced.

TEXTBOOK: *Intermediate Algebra*, provided by the Department of Mathematics at College of the Redwoods. The textbook is provided free of charge on CD and online at *http://msenux.redwoods.edu/IntAlgText*. You may also order a printed version of the entire textbook (including exercises and answers) or the solutions manual (exercises+solutions) at the bookstore. See the book information handout for more details.

COURSE STRUCTURE: You will have a chance to ask questions about homework problems at the beginning of each class period. The remainder of the session will be for instruction, practice, group activities, and/or assessment. Homework will usually be due each day, and there will sometimes be a quiz, class activity, or an exam (usually on Wednesdays).

GRAPH PORTFOLIO: You will create a portfolio containing knowledge of the graphs of each type of elementary function in the class. This is to assist you in gaining full knowledge of the functions you will learn about in this class.

HOMEWORK: There will be two different kinds of homework:

- Online homework utilizing ‘Optimath’, which will be discussed at length through the first couple weeks of class. Optimath work will be assigned after every class. This technology provides immediate feedback to a student’s solutions.
- Written work, called POW’s (Problems of the Week). These will be assigned every other week, and be due on Wednesday. This will show me your written work from the prior 2 weeks of material. I will grade a subset of these problems and give an assignment score based on this subset and completeness of the assignment.

PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL: The homework should be neat and well organized, clearly showing your full name. Sloppy, unstapled, disorganized or hard-to-follow problems will be returned unread with a grade of zero. Please note that very little to no partial credit will be assigned in grading assignments so that each student should take great care in preparing them. I suggest doing each assigned problem twice. Do the first draft on scratch paper, when you know exactly how a solution goes, transcribe it neatly onto green engineering paper. I will not accept any late homework, for any reason whatsoever, so do not request that I do so. Please be aware that the homework for this class will take a great deal of time and effort, and therefore I advise you begin working on an assignment as soon as it is assigned.

QUIZZES: Quizzes will occur each Wednesday a POW assignment is not due (thus, occurring at a frequency of every other week). They will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The quizzes will focus on the prior 2 weeks of material.

EXAMS: The midterm exams will be in class, and last one hour in length. They are each worth 10% of your final grade.

MAKE-UPS: Quiz or exam make-ups will be allowed only in extremely limited circumstances, with supporting documentation demonstrating the dire need of absence. Otherwise, I will not allow quiz or exam make-ups, so do not request that I do so.

GRADING:

Optimath:	15%
POW:	15%
Quizzes:	15%
Graph Portfolio:	5%
3 Midterm exams:	35%
Final Exam:	15%

Quizzes, exams, and the class will be graded on the following standard scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

The final course grade is at the professional discretion of the instructor. I will never reduce your grade from what you have earned, but may bump the final grade up a small percentage if the student shows positive participation and knowledge of fundamental concepts throughout the course.

AVAILABLE HELP: Personal help will be available from the instructor during class, office hours, and via email and fax. You are also highly encouraged to sign up for the Math Lab. The Math Lab is a course that offers 0.5 to 1.0 units of credit to help you get assistance with your math skills. The lab is located in the Academic Support Center. If math has been a struggle for you in the past, or if you are in search of an A grade, then I strongly recommend the Math Lab. It has been very successful in helping students achieve their goals in mathematics.

More details on help resources are provided on the course website.

USE OF CALCULATORS: A good graphing calculator is required. The calculator must be able to plot graphs of functions and solve equations numerically (i.e., find intersections of curves). The TI-83+ or TI-84+ is an excellent, easy-to-use calculator which meets these requirements, and is the standard calculator that we use in other math courses at College of the Redwoods. However, if you already have another good graphing calculator that meets the above requirements, that may be used instead.

If you don't have a graphing calculator, and don't wish to purchase one, there are a limited number of calculators available for rent from the Math Department for $25 per semester.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I expect that our email communications will be professional and respectful. In particular, email sent to me should begin with a proper salutation, end with your full name, and use proper spelling and punctuation throughout. Email communication not meeting these guidelines will be sent straight to the virtual trashcan!! Finally, you must allow for sufficient time for a reply to an email. In general, email is not a good form of last minute communication.

DISABILITIES: Any student who feels that s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor as soon as possible. The student will also need to visit the Disabled Student Programs and Services office (476-4280) and obtain a DSPS Support Services Agreement. Every effort will be made to meet accommodation requests. However, no retroactive accommodations will be provided.

CHANGES: Contents of this syllabus subject to revision by the instructor at any time.