Syllabus for: Pre-Algebra

Semester & Year:	Fall 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	MATH 376 – M33825 (033825)
Number of Credits/Units:	4
Day/Time:	M, W, F from 1:30p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Location:	Room 114
Instructor's Name:	Richard Ries
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: Room 105F Monday 2:45p.m. – 4:30p.m. Wednesday 2:45p.m. – 4:30p.m. Thursday 6:05p.m. – 7:05p.m. Friday 2:45p.m. -3:45p.m. Or by appointment Phone: 707-962-2681 Email: richard-ries@redwoods.edu

Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): A comprehensive review of arithmetic involving whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and signed numbers. Students will solve problems involving ratios, proportions, percents and geometry. Basic algebra concepts and techniques such as variables, simplifying expressions, solving equations will also be introduced. Problem solving, estimation and the communication of mathematical ideas are an integral part of the course. Use of a scientific calculator will be introduced.

Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline):

1. Evaluate and simplify numerical and algebraic expressions involving integers and rational numbers.
2. Solve linear equations.
3. Write linear equations for word problems and solve.
4. 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://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%205500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.pdf
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.

ATTENDANCE: Mathematics Department Policy Regarding "Faculty Withdrawal" of Students after Census Day: 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.

PREREQUISITES: MATH 372 OR APPROPRIATE SCORE ON MATH PLACEMENT EXAM.

Describe representative skills without which the student would be highly unlikely to succeed: Students will need to be proficient in basic arithmetic facts involving whole numbers.

Textbook: : College of the Redwoods Department of Mathematics; Title: Prealgebra Textbook, First Edition; Date 2010. The available modes will be discussed during class.

http://mathrev.redwoods.edu/PreAlgText/Prealgebra.pdf

Instructor Philosophy: The focus of learning is the student's analysis of experiences. Skill is required to combine first hand experiences, dialogue, thoughtful analysis and interpretation to give meaning and application of these experiences to life. Learning as an adult is an expansion of one's knowledge (facts and ideas), thinking (ability to assess) and behaviors (skills). Successful learning requires the cooperative efforts of both teachers and students. I am here to provide resources and facilitate the pursuit of your education. Studies have shown that the

most successful students are those who ask questions and participate in discussions. I look forward to working with a class who, as adults, understand that the acquisition of knowledge is a matter of personal responsibility that requires active participation.

Goals of This Course: The goal of this course is to help you to become proficient in the foundations necessary for success in a pre-algebra class and prepare you for other future math classes. Many mistakes that cost students dearly in terms of their grades in more advanced courses are basic algebraic mistakes. Since mathematics is a subject that builds upon itself, a strong foundation in algebra is essential for the rest of your math education. The best way to master any math topic is to practice by doing problems. The more you practice, the better you will become. Other successful learning strategies include forming study groups and outlining reading materials. If you are having difficulty with any topic, please come see me early to get you back on track as soon as possible.

Student Responsibilities: You are expected to come to class prepared by having read the assigned chapters and handouts, and completed all prior assignments. Proper adult behavior is expected at all times. The instructor reserves the right to dismiss a student from class permanently for disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior is any behavior that distracts the instructor or other students. The instructor has an obligation to promote the learning of the students of the class and anyone who is disrupting the learning process will be dropped for lack of academic effort. A lack of academic effort also includes, but is not limited to the following: missing or failing assignments, excessive absences, arriving late to class, exiting class before its termination, cheating, plagiarism or other disruptive behaviors. Also, please have your cellular phones off while in class and do not bring food or drink to class. If you wish to be dropped from the class it is your responsibility to do so.

Homework: Homework will be assigned daily and is due the following class session. For each section that is covered, you will be expected to complete every other odd exercise (and sometimes the odd exercises) at the end of each section we lecture on in your book as well as the hand out assignments that will be distributed after the completion of each section. There will be 20 homework assignments worth a total of 5 points each. Points will be awarded based on two criteria: 3 points will be awarded for the student's attempt to complete the assignment and 1 point for each correct answer of 2 problems selected for grading from each assignment. So, 100 points, or 10% of your class grade, will come from homework.

Quizzes and Group work: There will 10 scheduled quizzes in accordance to the dates posted and an additional 10 Pop quizzes or group activities that will be given at random and unannounced. Quizzes will be generated from the previous two homework assignments. The questions that appear on quizzes will be similar in nature to your homework. During group work, you will be asked to work cooperatively with two, or three, of your classmates to solve a problem that I will assign to you. Your group will then present the solution and explain how your group solved the

problem to the rest of the class. Grades from quizzes and group work are worth 5 points each for a total of 100 points, or 10% of your class grade.

Tests: There will be 4 midterm tests and a final in this class. See the attached handout for the dates. Please remember that **only under extreme emergency will I give a make up exam**. Documentation must be provided (e.g. police report, proof of hospitalization, etc.). Calculators are not allowed on any of the exams. Cheating is a very serious offence and anyone caught cheating will receive a grade of "F" for the course, and will be reported to the committee of academic honesty. I expect all problems to be worked out completely and legibly. Please also note that the final is cumulative. Each Midterm exam will be graded out of 150 points and will count for 15% of your class grade. The final will be worth 200 points and will count as 20% of your class grade. **Note: in order to pass this class you must successfully complete the final examination**

Grade Breakdown: Grade Record

Homework	10%	100 pts.	____	____	____	____	____	
			____	____	____	____	____	
			____	____	____	____	____	
			____	____	____	____	____	(5 each)
Quizzes/Class projects	10%	100 pts.	____	____	____	____	____	
			____	____	____	____	____	
			____	____	____	____	____	
			____	____	____	____	____	(5 each)
Midterm 1	15%	150 pts.	____					
Midterm 2	15%	150 pts.	____					
Midterm 3	15%	150 pts.	____					
Midterm 4	15%	150 pts.	____					
Final Exam	20%	200 pts.	____					
Total	100%	1000 pts.				Total	_____	

If you need your course grade as soon as possible, please e-mail me at Richard-Ries@redwoods.edu.

Attendance: I reserve the right to drop from the course any student that has more than three unexcused absences. Reference: Title 5, Sections 55024 and 58004. Approved: 05/01/2012

******* I expect you to attend every class meeting on time and ready to learn. ********

GRADE SYSTEM: Your final grade will be determined as follows

I will be using the plus/minus grade system. The break down is as follows:

A 930-1000	B 830-869	C 700-769
A- 900-929	B- 800-829	D 600-699
B+ 870-899	C+ 770-799	F 0-599

Or in terms of percent's, the break down is as follows:

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

This information is subject to change depending on class circumstances.

MATH 376 Weekly Schedule

NOTE: This schedule is approximate and may be modified as the semester progresses.

Week	Topics
1	Section 1.1 An Introduction to Whole Numbers
8/26	Section 1.2 Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers
8/28	Section 1.3 Multiplying and Division of Whole Numbers
8/30	Section 1.4 Prime Factorization
	Section 1.5 Order of Operations
2	Section 1.6 Solving Equations by Addition and Subtraction
9/2 (Labor Day NO School)	Section 1.7 Solving Equations by Multiplication and Division
9/4	Review for the Chapter 1 Exam
9/6	
3	Chapter 1 Exam
9/9	Section 2.1 An Introduction to the Integers
9/11	Section 2.2 Adding Integers
9/13	Section 2.3 Subtracting Integers
4	Section 2.4 Multiplication and Division of Integers
9/16	Section 2.5 Order of Operations with Integers
9/18	Section 2.6 Solving Equations Involving Integers
9/20	
5	Review for the Chapter 2 Exam
9/23	Chapter 2 Exam
9/25	Section 3.1 Mathematical Expressions
9/27	Section 3.2 Evaluating Algebraic Expressions
6	Section 3.3 Simplifying Algebraic Expressions
9/30	Section 3.4 Combining Like Terms
10/2	Section 3.5 Solving Equations Involving Integers II
10/4	Section 3.6 Applications
7	Review for the Chapter 3 Exam
10/7	Chapter 3 Exam
10/9	Section 4.1 Equivalent Fractions
10/11	Section 4.2 Multiplying Fractions
8	Section 4.3 Dividing Fractions
10/14	Section 4.4 Adding and Subtracting Fractions
10/16	Section 4.5 Multiplying and Dividing Mixed Numbers
10/18	Section 4.6 Adding and Subtracting Mixed Numbers
9	Section 4.7 Order of Operations with Fractions
10/21	Section 4.8 Solving Equations with Fractions

10/23	Review for the Chapter 4 Exam
10/25	Chapter 4 Exam

Week	Topics
10	Section 5.1 Introduction to Decimals
10/28	Section 5.2 Adding and Subtracting Decimals
10/30	Section 5.3 Multiplying Decimals
11/1	Section 5.4 Dividing Decimals
11	Section 5.5 Fractions and Decimals
11/4	Section 5.6 Equations with Decimals
11/6	Section 5.7 Introduction to Square Roots
11/8	Section 5.8 The Pythagorean Theorem
12	Review for the Chapter 5 Exam
11/11 (Veterans' Day No School)	Chapter 5 Exam
11/13	Section 6.1 Introduction to Ratios and Rates
11/15	Section 6.2 Introduction to Proportion
13	Section 6.3 Unit Conversion: American System
11/18	Section 6.4 Unit Conversion: Metric System
11/20	
11/22	
14	Section 6.5 American Units to Metric Units and Vice-Versa
11/25	Section 7.1 Percent, Decimals, Fractions
11/27	Section 7.2 Solving Basic Percent Problems
11/29 (Thanks Giving No School)	Section 7.3 General Applications of Percent
15	Section 7.4 Percent Increase or Decrease
12/2	Section 7.5 Interest
12/4	Chapter 7 Take-home Exam
12/6	
16	Final Exam
12/9	