# Syllabus for: Elementary Algebra

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| **Semester & Year:** | Fall 2013 |
| **Course ID and Section Number:** | Math-380-E3872 |
| **Number of Credits/Units:** | 5 |
| **Day/Time:** | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday/6:05-7:40 |
| **Location:** | SC 210 |
| **Instructor's Name:** | Ward Nickle |
| **Contact Information:** | Office location: PS 200<br>Phone: 476-4100<br>Email: ward-nickle@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.

**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.

**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

Grading   Homework  20%
       Quizzes    20%
       Exams     60%

Text   The text is available for free at the following link:
     http://mathrev.redwoods.edu/ElemAlgText/

## Participation

Attendance is absolutely critical for success in this course.  If you have excessive absences you may be dropped from the course.  While it is college policy that attendance cannot be used to determine grades, participation can be used in this way.  I will use participation to determine whether a student who is at the threshold (within 2%) of a higher grade should receive it or not.

## Attendance

It is the policy of the College of the Redwoods Math Department to exercise a "Faculty Withdrawal" for any student who has missed more than 15% of the class meeting time (prior to the drop deadline), due to the severely diminished likelihood of a successful outcome in the course.  It is important to note that, if it is the student's intention to withdraw from the course, the responsibility remains with the student to ensure the proper paperwork has been filed—that is, students are not to assume the teacher will file the "Withdrawal" automatically.

## Course Structure

At the start of each class, there will be an opportunity to discuss homework questions.  This will be followed by a lecture on new material.  Online homework will be assigned at the end of each class.  There will be a small group activity at the end of each chapter to prepare for the subsequent online quiz.  You will have 2 attempts and 1 week to complete each quiz.  There will be 3 in-class, written exams, including the cumulative final exam.

## Homework Policy

All homework assignments will be online. Online assignments will be competed through Optimath, a locally written testing system. The testing system is located at:

http://msenux.redwoods.edu/optimath

More information about Optimath, including how to log in and correct syntax, is available at:

http://msenux.redwoods.edu/mathdept/docs/student/optimathinfo.html

## Resources

If you have questions about your homework you can visit my office hours or you can find help at the Math Lab. In order to enjoy the benefits of the Math Lab, you must enroll in 0.5 to 1 unit of Math Lab. Additionally, there is individual tutoring available through the Academic Support Center.

## Conduct

Use of cell phones, texting, Tweeting, Facebooking, and the like will not be tolerated. These behaviors distract you and your colleagues.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMS EVER. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

### Grade Assignment

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| 90-100% | A |
| 87-89% | B+ |
| 80-86% | B |
| 77-79% | C+ |
| 70-76% | C |
| 60-69% | D |
| 0-59% | F |