Intermediate Algebra Syllabus (v1)

Semester & Year:	Fall 2014
Course ID and Section Number:	MATH 120 E6119 036119
Number of Credits/Units:	4
Day/Time: **Location:**	MWF 8:30AM-9:45AM Sciences Bldg. SC 210
Instructor's Name:	Robin Carter
Contact Information:	robin-carter@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, absolute value, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic equations and functions are explored. Technology is integrated into all aspects of the course.
Prerequisite: MATH380 Elementary Algebra (or equivalent) with a grade of "C" or better, or appropriate score on the math placement exam.

Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :
Evaluate and interpret general functions symbolically, numerically, and graphically.

1. Produce an accurate graph of each function type introduced in the course, identifying and plotting all salient features.
2. Demonstrate appropriate use of technology in analyzing the behavior of functions presented in the course.
3. Use mathematical models to analyze and interpret real-world situations.
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 accommodations document to me as promptly as possible so that necessary arrangements can 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.

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.

OBJECTIVE: This algebra class is the third in the four part algebra series. It has an Elementary Algebra prerequisite (MTH 380) and is designed to prepare you for College Algebra or any of the Associates Degree level mathematics courses. Our primary goal will be to learn more of the language called algebra.

Get ready - the topics we look at include linear functions, absolute values equations and inequalities, quadratic functions, polynomial and rational functions, radical functions, composite and inverse functions, exponential and logarithmic functions.

Mathematics is a powerful language that transcends culture and time. Along with music, it is one of the two universal languages. Learning algebra is a lesson in logic. Writing algebra symbolically recreates the form of computer programming. Data analysis using algebra can yield insights into science and technology, while graphing algebra equations can communicate those insights.

MATH 120 Math Department Resource Page
http://msenux.redwoods.edu/mathdept/courses/math120.php

MATERIALS: The Intermediate Algebra textbook is available free online at:
http://msenux.redwoods.edu/IntAlgText/

You will need to obtain the following for this class:

a) A scientific calculator with a graphing package. The TI-83+ or TI-84 are HIGHLY recommended. If you are going to buy a new calculator, buy a TI-84. You can also rent one for the semester for $20.

b) Lots of graph paper (cheap stuff will be fine).

c) A ruler or straight edge.

d) Lots of pencils and … erasers!

CLASSROOM: It is expected that everyone involved in this class, teacher and students alike, will act in a manner conducive to providing a comfortable environment for learning, a classroom where students feel free to ask and answer questions without fear of embarrassment or ridicule. It is important to stay on task when class is in session. Hence, conversation not pertaining to the subject at hand should be taken outside the classroom. If you need to leave the classroom, or, you arrive late, courtesy requires that you do so as quietly as possible, without disturbing discussion or lecture. Excessive lateness, or leaving early, may be a cause for grade reduction. If you have any personal difficulties with learning environment in the classroom, please let me know and we can discuss them. Cell phones should also be turned off during class time.

HOMEWORK: The students who do well in mathematics courses are ones who are consistently practicing their homework problems. Homework assignments are given weekly. Do all the homework to prepare for the exams, checking your own answers in the textbook.

Assignments are due in class for grading on the due date. Late assignments will be accepted at the next class after the due date only for a 20% reduction in score.

EXAMS: We will have 3 exams and 1 cumulative final exam during the semester. Questions will be based on homework assignments, quizzes and examples from class. I will replace your lowest exam score with the final exam score, if the final exam score is better. There are no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero score on that exam, and that is the score to be replaced.

Exam 1 Chapter 1-3

Exam 2 Chapters 5-6

Exam 3 Chapters 7-8

Final Exam on Chapters 1-3, 5-9 is cumulative

ATTENDANCE: To succeed in a mathematics class you need to attend every class meeting. 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 the material for each class period, even if you can't attend. Active class participation will contribute positively to your course grade.

GRADING: Grades are posted on the class MyCR site and will be determined by the following percentages:

Assignments/Quizzes	40%
Exams	45%
Final Exam	15%

In assigning course letter grades, the AP Slide will apply:

Attitude and Participation will determine if borderline grades slide up or slide down.

GETTING HELP: There are free resources available for extra help. First and foremost, see me about any issues you have with the course. Don't be shy about asking for help. You can't afford to wait in math class; every class is built upon the previous one.

Excellent tutors are located in the Academic Support Center located in the library. You need to check in at the ASC desk and make an appointment to meet with a tutor.

Forming a study group with other students in your class is a great way to learn math. Helping each other is important as when you verbalize the process, you really know whether you know it or not. This course requires two hours of study for every hour of class. That's a lot of study!