

Math 380 Syllabus

Syllabus for: Elementary Algebra, Math 380	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2014
Course ID and Section Number:	MATH-380-E6108-2014F Elementary Algebra
Number of Credits/Units:	5
Day/Time:	MTWTH 01:15PM 02:30PM SC206
Location:	
Instructor's Name:	Michael Butler
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: SC216D, Hours TTH 12:00-1:00 Phone: 476-4234 Email: michael-butler@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) :	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.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.

TEXTS: ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA

Authors: College of the Redwoods Mathematics Department. Text is available at:

<http://mathrev.redwoods.edu/ElemAlgText>. For purchasing a paper copy information go to:

<http://msenux.redwoods.edu/mathdept/courses/MathTextbooks.html>

OBJECTIVE: This algebra class is the second in our four part algebra series. It has a Prealgebra prerequisite (Math 376) and is designed to prepare you for Intermediate Algebra or any of the Associates Degree level mathematics courses. Our primary goal will be to learn more of the language called algebra. Also, we will look at how and where algebra is used in the real world. By the end of this mathematics class you will have a higher level of confidence in your ability to solve problems. Mathematics is a powerful language that transcends culture and time. It is one of the two universal languages, music being the other. So, it is my sincere hope to get you excited about learning mathematics!

MATERIALS: You will need to obtain the following for this class:

- 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
- Lots of graph paper (cheap stuff will be fine).
- A ruler or straight edge.
- A three-ring binder to keep your work in.
- Lots of **PENCILS!**

There will be a check of materials on the second Monday of the course. If you do not have the required materials by that date, you will be subject to a faculty withdraw from the class.

HOMEWORK: I will be assigning daily homework. It is expected that you will have it completed by the next class session. I will be collecting the homework at the next class session after it was assigned. **I will not accept any late homework.** If you were not able to complete the assignment, hold on to it and seek help in getting it completed. Once you have completed the assignment, bring it to show me in office hours to have it excused from the grade calculation. You are allowed up to five (5) excused assignments during the semester. The homework is where you go to polish your math skills. It is not an option. **The homework is required!** 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 include the use of the calculator.

Specifics on how homework is to be presented:

- All homework is to be done in **pencil**.
- Sloppy work will not be accepted. You need to present your work so it is readable.
- Pages need to be stapled.
- Your Name, The Section Number and the Date must appear in the header of each assignment.
- Homework must be done in a vertical format. We will be working on this in class.

The homework assignments are listed on MyCR. It is assumed that you have access to this listing. You may ask questions about the homework in class and you can also earn extra credit homework points by answering the questions of your classmates.

QUIZZES/ACTIVITIES/YOUR-TURNS: We will be trying to get in at least one group activity in per week. We will also have a weekly quiz. We will be doing daily in class assignments that are called Your-Turns that get turned in with the homework. If you miss a group activity, you can make it up for 1/2 credit during office hours. There will be extra credit assignments using the Optimath system that can be used to make up quiz points.

OPPORTUNITIES: I hate the name "exam" or "mid-term" for a major point gathering opportunity. You go to the doctor for an exam and midterms should occur in the middle of the semester. Instead I prefer to call these "Opportunities." That is what they are; an opportunity for you to show off what you have learned. There will be up to 4 Opportunities and they are worth 100 points each. Sample opportunities can be found on the Optimath site and in Resources in MyCR.

FINAL: The final is worth 200 points and is multiple choice.

ATTENDANCE: To succeed in a mathematics class you need to attend every class meeting. Attendance is taken via the Your-Turns. 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 all material covered even if you don't attend class. **If you miss more than 6 class sessions you may be asked to retake this class.**

Environment of Course: 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 place where students feel free to ask and answer questions without fear of embarrassment or ridicule. It is important to stay on task. Hence, discussions that do not pertain to the subject at hand should be taken outside of the classroom. It is essential for student success to maintain a good environment in our classroom. If you have any difficulties with the learning environment, please visit me in my office hours or send me an email with your phone number and a time to contact you to discuss them. **If your cell phone rings in class, or you do any form of text messaging during class, you will be required to apologize to your peers for this behavior. The method by which you apologize is to bring cookies to the next class session.**

GRADE SYSTEM: Your final grade will be determined approximately as follows

Homework	20%
Quizzes/Activities	20%
Opportunities	50%
Final Opportunity	10%

I use the plus/minus system for final grades. The grade break down is as follows.

A	93-100%	C	70-76.9%
A-	90-92.9%	D	60-70.9%
B+	87-89.9%	F	0-59.9%
B	83-86.9%		
B-	80-82.9%		
C+	77-79.9%		

TUTORS AND MATH 380L: Tutoring service is located in the library in the Learning Resource Center (LRC). Math 380L is a lab course that offers 0.5 to 1.0 units of credit to get assistance with your math skills. If math has been a struggle or you are in search of the A grade, I strongly recommend Math 380L. It has been very successful in helping students achieve their goals in mathematics.

STUDY GROUPS: There is nothing harder (in my opinion) than going through a mathematics class solo. You should start now to form study groups. This class and every math class you take will require two hours of study for every hour lecture. That means you will need to put in a minimum of 10 hours per week outside the classroom. If you do not have that amount of time to schedule to this class, you may want to reconsider taking it. Find someone in the class that you can work with and schedule regular hours during the week when you can get together and study. Meeting in Math 380L is a great place to hold your study group.