

**MATH-301-E7054**  
**Pre-Algebra Review**

<b>Semester &amp; Year:</b>	Spring 2015
<b>Course ID and Section Number:</b>	MATH-301-E7054
<b>Number of Credits/Units:</b>	1 unit
<b>Day/Time:</b>	M – TH 4:45 – 5:50 pm
<b>Location:</b>	SC 214
<b>Instructor's Name:</b>	Mr. Jon Pace
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Office hours: Thursday 2:30 – 4:30 TBD Email: <a href="mailto:jonothan-pace@redwoods.edu">jonothan-pace@redwoods.edu</a> or via MyCr

**Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline):**

A review course covering material from Math 276 (Prealgebra). This review course is designed for students preparing to place into Math 380 (Elementary Algebra). Content will include: review of arithmetic operations involving fractions, decimals, and signed numbers; review of problem-solving strategies for problems involving ratios, percents, and geometry; review of basic algebra concepts; review of techniques for simplifying algebraic expressions and solving linear equations.

*Special notes or advisories:* This is a review course. Extensive work on a computer homework system will be required.

**Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :**

Demonstrate the skills required to pass the placement exam which will allow the student to enroll in the proper level of mathematics. This will be assessed at the end of each module. These assessments will include: operations with rational numbers, solving algebraic equations, and basic geometry.

**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.

***\* I reserve the right to change this syllabus at any time.***

# MathJam Algebra Review

Spring 2015

SC 214 • M-Th 4:55 - 5:50 PM

**Instructor:** Jon Pace

## Course Description

A review course covering material from Math 376 - Prealgebra (Math 301), Math 380 - Elementary Algebra (Math 302), and Math 120 - Intermediate Algebra (Math 303). This review course is designed for students preparing to take the next course in the series or who will be attempting to place higher by (re)taking CR's in-house placement exam. This is a Pass/No Pass course based on attendance.

## Course Objectives

Demonstrate the skills required to pass the placement exam which will allow the student to enroll and succeed in the appropriate level of mathematics. This will be assessed at the end of each module.

## Website

MathJam: <http://mathrev.redwoods.edu/mathjam/>

## Grading

This class is a "Pass/No Pass" class. Credit for the class is based on attendance.

## Attendance

The class grade is based on your attendance. You must attend each class session. If something comes up preventing you from attending, notify me immediately and we'll work it out.

## Recommended Materials

Bring a pen or pencil and plenty of scratch paper for you to use while working on the problems and taking notes. It would be to your benefit to NOT use a calculator since you are not allowed to do so on the Placement Exam.

## Accessing Computers

To log in to the MacBook computers, use the Guest account,

Username: guest

Password:

## How it works...

1. In Safari (use only Safari - compass icon on the application dock at the bottom of the screen), go to: <http://mathrev.redwoods.edu/mathjam/>.
2. Click on the big red button that says, "I am enrolled in a CR math review course (Math 301, 302, 303)."
3. In the table of contents, click on the appropriate review course.

The course is split into 6 Modules. We will cover about one module per day. I will cover material for each group separately for about 20 minutes on a particular topic in that module and then you will spend the remainder of the class working on the practice exercises. During that time, our in-class tutors will be available for questions. At the end of each module there is a "Completion Quiz" for you to take. The exercises and completion quizzes are designed to prepare you to take the math placement exam. I will be alternating between the three levels of review, so you must be willing to rely on the available text, solutions to the exercises, and wait patiently for a tutor to be able to answer your question when I am busy with one of the other levels.

## OPTIMATH

1. In your browser, open a new tab or window and go to <http://mathrev.redwoods.edu/optimath/>.
2. Click the link that says, "LOGIN for Spring 2015 basic skills mathematics classes."
3. Find your class in the list (verify that I am the instructor) and click on the section number.
4. (a) Log in: the username is the same as WebAdvisor (without any hyphens),

<first initial> + <last name> + <last 3 digits of ID#>

and the initial password is your 7-digit ID#. It is recommended that you change your password the first time you successfully log in.

- (b) When you click on an assignment title, wait while the assignment is prepared, then open the assignment.
- (c) Click the "Begin Assignment" button, and then scroll through the problems using the "Next" and "Back" links. **NEVER USE THE BACK BUTTON ON THE BROWSER!!**
- (d) When you are finished, click the "End Assignment" button. You will then see your score and be able to look through the solutions.

\* It is highly recommended that you do all of the exercises and completion quizzes without a calculator since you will not be able to use one on the placement exam.

\*\* You can take each assignment as many times as you would like.

## Placement Exam

If you are going to take the Math Placement Exam after the review course, you must schedule a time with Tina Vaughan in the ASC (707-476-4168, [tina-vaughan@redwoods.edu](mailto:tina-vaughan@redwoods.edu)). Tell her that you would like to take the OPTIMATH placement exam. Contact her soon.

# OPTIMATH System Requirements

(updated Jan. 25, 2015)

The OPTIMATH testing system requires an internet browser along with the Adobe Reader software. **In particular, it requires proper installation of the Adobe Reader internet plugin so that your browser will open *pdf* files within the browser window.** In some cases, configuration steps (explained below) are needed after you install Adobe Reader to ensure that the plugin is working correctly.

- **Windows:** Use the most recent version of the Firefox or Internet Explorer browser along with the most recent version of Adobe Reader.
  - **Installation of Adobe Reader:**
    1. Download the Adobe Reader software from <http://get.adobe.com/reader>. It is important that you have the most recent update of Adobe Reader that is compatible with your operating system.
    2. Run the Adobe Reader installer. When you are asked if you want Adobe Reader to be the default pdf reader, answer "YES". Also, make sure that you install the browser plugin if the installation program asks you.
    3. Quit your browser if it's open, and then reopen your browser. If you are using Internet Explorer, then OPTIMATH should now correctly open your assignments within your browser, with the Adobe Reader toolbar near the top of the window (see [screenshot](#) ).
    4. *Special instructions for Firefox*

Without additional configuration, Firefox normally uses its own limited *pdf* reader instead of the Adobe Reader plug-in. For OPTIMATH to work correctly, it's vital that Firefox uses the Adobe Reader plug-in instead. To make sure that Firefox uses this plug-in, follow these steps:

      - a. Choose the **Options** menu item in Firefox.
      - b. Select the **Applications** panel.
      - c. Find "Portable Document Format (PDF)" in the list and click on it to select it. Click on the drop-down arrow in the Action column for the above entry and select "Use Adobe Acrobat (in Firefox)".
  
- **Trouble-shooting:** After completing the installation steps above, no extra configuration should be necessary. However, in case *pdf* files still do not open up within your browser with the Adobe Reader toolbar near the top of the window, try the following suggestion:
  - Open up Adobe Reader, look at the **Options**, and check the **Javascript** preference item to make sure that Acrobat Javascript is enabled (this is the default behavior). Then quit your browser and restart it, and test your setup again. If it still doesn't work, then you may need to reinstall Adobe Reader.
  
- **Mac OS X:** As of Summer 2013, your only option is the most recent version of Safari along with the most recent version of Adobe Reader.

- **Installation of Adobe Reader:**

0. Download the Adobe Reader software from <http://get.adobe.com/reader>. It is important that you have the most recent update of Adobe Reader that is compatible with your operating system.
1. Run the Adobe Reader installer. Make sure that you install the browser plugin if the installation program asks you.
2. Quit Safari if it's open, and then reopen Safari.
3. *Configuration procedures for different versions of Safari*  
Without additional configuration, Safari normally uses its own limited *pdf* reader instead of the Adobe Reader plug-in. For OPTIMATH to work correctly, it's vital that Safari uses the Adobe Reader plug-in instead. To make sure that Safari uses this plug-in, follow the steps given below for your version of Safari.

- *Special instructions for Safari 8 on Yosemite (system 10.10), or Safari 7 on Mavericks (system 10.9):*
  - a. Open Safari.
  - b. Choose the **Preferences** item from the Safari menu.
  - c. Click on the Security tab.
  - d. At the bottom of the dialog, make sure that **Allow Plug-ins** is checked, and then click just to the right on the corresponding **Website Settings** button.
  - e. In the next dialog that appears (see [picture](#)), on the left side click on the **Adobe Reader** item. Then in the dropdown list at the bottom right, change the setting to **Allow Always**, and then click on the **Done** button.

OPTIMATH assignments should now correctly open up your assignments in Safari, with the familiar Adobe Reader toolbar at the top of the window (see [screenshot](#)).

- *Special instructions for Safari 6.1 on Lion or Mountain Lion (systems 10.7 and 10.8):*
  - a. Open Safari.
  - b. Choose the **Preferences** item from the Safari menu.
  - c. Click on the **Security** tab.
  - d. In the dialog below, make sure that **Enable Plug-ins** is checked, and then close the Preferences.

OPTIMATH assignments should now correctly open up your assignments in Safari, with the familiar Adobe Reader toolbar at the top of the window (see [screenshot](#)).

- *Special instructions for Safari 5.1.9 and 5.1.10 on Snow Leopard (system 10.6):*
  - a. Quit Safari.
  - b. In the Finder, open your Utilities folder. It's located in your Applications folder. An easy way to do this is to use the Finder menu item **Go -> Utilities**.
  - c. Double-click on the Terminal application. A Terminal window will then open.

- d. In the Terminal window, type the following line (or copy and paste), and then press Return:

```
defaults write com.apple.Safari WebKitOmitPDFSupport  
YES
```

- e. Quit the Terminal and then reopen Safari.

OPTIMATH assignments should now correctly open up your assignments in Safari, with the familiar Adobe Reader toolbar at the top of the window (see [screenshot](#)).

- **Trouble-shooting:** No extra configuration should be necessary after a new installation. However, in case *pdf* files still do not open up within Safari with the Adobe Reader toolbar near the top of the window, try the following suggestions:
  - Open up Adobe Reader, look at the **Preferences**, and check the **Javascript** preference item to make sure that Acrobat Javascript is enabled (this is the default behavior). Then quit your browser and restart it, and test your setup again. If it still doesn't work, then you may need to reinstall Adobe Reader.
- **Linux:** Firefox browser, with Adobe Reader version 8.
  - Unfortunately, Adobe Reader for Linux does not include a plug-in so that pdf documents load in the browser. However, you should still be able to use OPTIMATH, although the process is not quite as smooth. You will need to download the assignments using Firefox and then open them directly in Adobe Reader 8. When you finish an assignment, and you press the **End Assignment** button, you will get an alert with an error message. But don't panic. If you go back to the OPTIMATH site in Firefox to the **View Assignment Results** screen, you should find that your assignment results were actually recorded correctly.