Syllabus for Math 130: Foundations of Algebra for Math Intensive Fields

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2020
Course ID & Section #: MATH-130-E9343
Instructor's name: Paige MacDonald
Day/Time: MWF 11:40am-12:45pm, 12:55-2pm
Location: SC 210
Number of units: 4

Instructor Contact Information

Online Office Hours through ConferZoom
Office hours: TBD
Email address: paige-macdonald@redwoods.edu

Required Materials

Textbook Title: Intermediate Algebra
Author: Marecek, Lynn
ISBN: Print ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-26-5 Digital ISBN-13: 978-0-9986257-2-0
Your textbook is available free online at https://openstax.org/details/intermediate-algebra
Other requirements: myOpenMath account (Free! *see below for more info*), Internet Access: This class will use Canvas. Homework assignments, grades, announcements, class notes, etc will be posted on Canvas. Piazza account (see below).

Catalog Description

A course consisting of elements of beginning and intermediate algebra necessary for long-term engagement in math-intensive fields. This course is designed for students who have attained some algebra skills and intend to take College Algebra. Topics include: linear, absolute value, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic—expressions, equations, functions, graphs, modeling and applications.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and apply appropriate techniques to simplify and evaluate expressions and also while solving equations and inequalities.
2. Evaluate and interpret general functions symbolically, numerically, and graphically.
3.Use mathematical modeling and graphical techniques to solve problems.

Special accommodations statement

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 accommodations, contact Disability Services and Programs for Students. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS at 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor.

Academic Support

Academic support is available at Counseling and Advising and includes academic advising and educational planning, Academic Support Center for tutoring and proctored tests, and Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS), for eligible students, with advising, assistance, tutoring, and more.

Important Dates

- *Last day to add a class: Jan 24*
- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: Jan 31*
- *Census date: Feb 3*
- *Last Day to File P/NP Option: Feb 14*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate: Mar 5*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund): Apr 3*
- *Last day for faculty-initiated W (no refund): Apr 3*
- *Last Day of Regular Classes: May 8*
- *Final examinations: May 9-May 15*
- *Semester ends: May 15*

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct (AP 5500) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. 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 website.

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct (AP 5500) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. 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 website.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Final Grade

Written Homework	15%	94 – 100 %	A	70 – 76.9 %	C
Online Homework	15%	90 – 93.9 %	A-	60 – 69.9 %	D
Quizzes	20%	87 – 89.9 %	B+	< 60 %	F
Exam I	15%	84 – 86.9 %	B		
Exam II	15%	80 – 83.9 %	B-		
Final	20%	77 – 79.9 %	C+		

Written Homework

Written homework will be assigned each week, and due on Mondays. Homework should be neatly written and handed in **at the beginning of class** on the due date. Please write your first and last name, and the # of the homework assignment in the upper right corner of your paper, and staple multiple papers in the upper left corner. Problems should be organized on the paper in the order they are assigned. Your lowest 2 homework scores will be dropped. Late assignments will not be accepted.

If you need to miss class, please have one of your classmates turn in your work. If you email me in advance of your absence, arrangements can be made to leave your homework in the drop box outside of SC216. **You must make prior arrangements with me to use the drop box.**

Online Homework

Online homework will be assigned each class meeting on MyOpenMath and will be due before the next class meeting. You have 3 Late Passes that you may use throughout the semester. Using a Late Pass will extend the due date by 48 hours.

You will need to *Register as a New Student* using the Course ID: 61568 at https://www.myopenmath.com/index.php. Leave the Enrollment Key blank. **Important: You must use the exact first and last name listed on your Canvas.**

Quizzes

We will have short quizzes each week on Wednesdays (except for exam weeks). The quizzes will be on material covered the previous week. Your lowest 2 quiz scores will be dropped.

If you miss a quiz, you will need to make it up in the ASC. You will need to take the quiz in the ASC by 11am Friday following the missed quiz. If you are unable to take it by 11am Friday, please email me **before 11am Friday** and I will extend the time. If you do not make up the quiz or email me before 11am Friday, you will receive a 0 for that quiz.

You can find ASC hours at https://www.redwoods.edu/asc.

Quiz Corrections

You may correct your quizzes, for up to half of your missed points back. Corrections must be done on a separate sheet of paper and should be stapled on top of your original quiz. Corrections are due 2 class periods after receiving your graded quiz back (e.g. if you receive your quiz back on a Friday, corrections will be due the following Wednesday). If you missed a quiz and did not make it up, you can still do "corrections".

Exams

We will have 2 midterm exams. The **tentative** dates for the exams are:

Exam I: Wednesday, Feb 26 (Chapters 1-4)

Exam II: Wednesday, Apr 1 (Chapters 5-7)

Makeup exams will be given only under extenuating circumstances, and at my discretion. You must contact me **prior** to the exam day to request a makeup exam. The sooner you contact me, the more likely I will allow a makeup. *Makeups will only be given **after** the original exam time.*

Final

The final exam is cumulative and is scheduled for Monday, May 11 from 10:45am-12:45pm. **There are no makeups for the final exam.**

Canvas Information

Log into Canvas at https://redwoods.instructure.com
Password is your 6-digit birth date
For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

Instructor-Initiated Drops

You may be dropped from the course if you miss more than two weeks (6 classes) without approval before the April 3 drop deadline. You will not be dropped without the instructor reaching out to you first.

Additionally, missing 3 or more classes in the first two weeks may result in a drop. Again, the instructor will reach out to you before you are dropped.

IMPORTANT: If it is your intention to drop the course, you are responsible to ensure the proper paperwork has been filed. Do not assume the teacher will drop you automatically.

Communication Guidelines

I will communicate with you via Canvas and your CR email. Please get in the habit in checking both daily. If you have questions about your grade, the syllabus, or other logistics, you can reach me via email or Canvas messages. I will typically respond to emails sent during the week within 24 hours, and on the weekends within 48 hours. *Emails and Canvas messages are for questions about your grade, absences, or other logistics. All questions about math should be posted on Piazza or myOpenMath (see below for more information).*

Getting Help with Homework

We will use Piazza for written homework questions, or questions on quiz corrections. You can sign up at piazza.com/redwoods/spring2020/math130. You can choose to post anonymously, if you wish. Other students are encouraged to answer questions posted on Piazza. I will monitor student answers for correctness.
Questions about online homework should be posted on myOpenMath in the Discussion Forum by clicking "Post this question to forum." If you believe there is an error in the question (which does happen sometimes on myOpenMath), please use the "Message instructor about this question" option.
I am notified by email when you post on either Piazza or myOpenMath.
You may also attend office hours or enroll in the Math Lab to get help with homework.

Math Lab

College of the Redwoods offers support for all students enrolled in math courses via a drop-in lab. More information, including hours and instructor schedule, is available at https://www.redwoods.edu/math/lab. **The math lab is a course**

that you must sign up for in WebAdvisor in order to utilize the tutoring services. I highly encourage *all* students to sign up for math lab.
My math lab hours: Mon 3-6pm, Thurs 1-2:30pm, Fri 2-3:30pm
If you enroll, you can go to the math lab for help anytime they are open to get help, not just when I am there. I can only help you during my math lab hours ***if you are enrolled in the course.***

Time Commitment

You should expect to spend a **minimum** of 8 hours per week outside of the classroom on this course. This is only a rough guideline, and the actual time will vary depending on many factors. If you find you are not doing as well as you would like, you may need to adjust the amount of time you are spending. The best advice I can give is to **have a plan and adjust as necessary!**

Participation

You are expected to actively participate in every class, so you must be prepared for each class session by having completed the assigned readings and homework. Mathematics builds on itself, so if you are not current on the previous material, you will not be ready to learn the new material, or to actively participate in class. You are expected to **read your textbook**.

At the end of this document is a tentative class schedule, which I will update as necessary. You should do a light reading of the sections we will be covering **before coming to class**. At this point, you may not understand everything, and that is okay! Just make a note of anything you don't understand and move on. This gives you an idea of where you might struggle with the new concepts, and what types of questions you may want to ask in class. Then, after class and before completing homework assignments, you should do a more thorough reading, referencing your class notes. If there is something you still do not understand, **do not ignore this!** Come to office hours or post a question on Piazza.

Reading a mathematics textbook should be done with a pencil and paper at hand to work through examples- it is an *active* process and is very different than reading a novel. Many students try to jump straight to the assigned problems, and only refer to the examples in the textbook when they get stuck. *This is not a recommended approach to studying mathematics*. Taking the time to read *carefully* through the textbook and work through the examples will make your homework go faster and seem less frustrating.

Groupwork

We will frequently work in groups, and you are expected to work actively with your peers. Peer-to-peer learning is an important part of your success as a college student and working well with others is one of the most desired traits by employers. Take advantage of the opportunity to hone this skill! I highly recommend that you form study groups with your classmates outside of class, as well.

Attendance

Regular attendance is vital to your success in this course. If you need to miss a class, you are expected to email me prior to your absence. If that is not possible, please email me as soon as possible. You are responsible for getting the material you missed, and for going over the material to ensure you are prepared for the next class. I **will** notice when you are gone, so please make sure you **communicate** with me *in writing* about any and all absences.

DSPS Accomodations

If you are DSPS student, and your accommodations include extra time for tests and/or quizzes, you are expected to contact me via email at least 24 hours before the first quiz to make arrangements for taking quizzes.

Additionally, you must contact me via email **at least 2 days prior to *each* exam** to make arrangements for taking the exam.

Recommended reading

A Mind for Numbers: How to Excel at Math and Science (Even if you Flunked Algebra) Barbara Oakley
ISBN-10: 9780399165245. This book is not too expensive and has some great tips on how to improve your study strategies, which will help you in *all* of your classes.

Tentative Class Schedule (subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Week	Mon	Wed	Fri
1 Jan 20	MLK Jr. Bday- No classes	1.1	1.2, 1.3 Last day to Add
2 Jan 27	1.4, 1.5	2.1-2.4	2.5, 2.6 Last Day to Drop (w/ refund)
3 Feb 3	2.6, 2.7	3.1, 3.2	3.3
4	3.4	3.5, 3.6	Happy Valentine's Day! No Classes Last day to change grading option to P/NP
5 Feb 17	No Classes	4.1	4.2,4.3
6 Feb 24	Review	Exam I (Ch. 1-4)	Class Cancelled
7 Mar 2	5.1, 5.2	5.3, 5.4	6.1, 6.2
8 Mar 9	6.3, 6.4	6.5	7.1-7.3
Spring Break!			
9 Mar 23	7.4	7.6	7.6
10 Mar 30	Review	Exam II (Ch. 5-7)	8.1, 8.2 Last day to drop (with a "W")
11 Apr 6	8.3-8.5	8.6	8.7
12 Apr 13	9.1, 9.2	9.3, 9.4	9.6
13 Apr 20	9.7	9.8	11.1
14 Apr 27	10.1	10.2	10.3
15 May 4	10.4	10.5	Review
16 May 11	Monday May 11 **Final 10:45am- 12:45pm (Cumulative)**		