

Syllabus for Elementary Algebra-Part II *lab setting*
spring 2009 Course No: MTH 55.2 Section 4985 3.0 Units

Class Time: Wed 8:30-11:30
 (3.5 hours a week
 from the
 following)
 Fri 8:30-11:30
 Sat 8:00-11:30

Location: Room 8003 and
 8004 (math lab)

Instructors: Mac Smith/Elisabeth McMahon <mailto:emcmahon@mendocino.edu>

Textbook: Required: Introductory Algebra for College Students, Fourth Edition, by Robert Blitzer, 2006, Prentice-Hall (or Fifth Edition)

Required: A scientific calculator, not a graphing calculator

Resources: Recommended: Student Solutions Manual to Accompany Introductory Algebra...
 -All Math Lab hours are available for you if you are also enrolled in MTH 40.1 or 40.2 (Wed 8:30-11:30 and 4:00-5:30,)

-Fellow students are resources as are the Math lab tutors

-Individual guidance and tutorial instruction

-CD-Rom Lectures from Textbook available on Math lab computers and Computer Tutorials and math games available for practicing skills

-There are two practice tests with accompanying worked out video solutions that correspond to tests you will take on the computers. This is a terrific resource.

Course Satisfies 2nd half of the Competency Requirement #1 for the Associate Degree.

Description: Upon successful completion of this course, you will have the skills to accomplish the following:

1. Solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable
2. Graph, describe and solve linear equations and inequalities in two variables and systems of linear equations and inequalities in two variables
3. Simplify polynomial expressions, solve integer factorable polynomial equations
4. Simplify rational expressions and solve rational expressions
5. Simplify integer exponents
6. Simplify radicals and solve equations with radicals
7. Solve quadratic equations that are not integer factorable
8. Graph quadratic equations, find vertices
9. Use function notation

Method of Instruction: Section 4985 is a lab course. In order to be successful plan to spend at least 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week class time in Willits center math lab engaged in independent and cooperative learning and/or taking chapter and cumulative review tests on math lab testing computers.

Goals: See how algebra can solve real problems and have some fun too. Work toward AA degree or for transfer to 4-year university.

Course Calendar: A course calendar is attached to his syllabus. If there are changes, they will be posted in Math Lab and on Elisabeth's website.

<http://atlantis.mendocino.edu/emcmahon/> It is your responsibility to keep track of any changes.

You are more than welcome to work ahead, but you are expected to meet (or beat) the pace set in the calendar.

Expectations: - In order to be successful plan to spend at least 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week class time in Willits center math lab engaged in independent and cooperative learning and/or taking chapter and cumulative review tests on math lab testing computers.

-You are expected to read the text; the **first** reading of a section or sections to be covered during a particular week should be done **before** class. Expect to spend 6 or more hours of outside study time per week (2 for every scheduled class unit).

Expectations: -Assignments (Chapter Packets-dates are on calendar) must be completed on time, and you must complete all required tests on math lab computers.
(continued) -If an assignment is late and/or you have not been attending at least 3 ½ hours of lab per week you may be dropped from class.

Chapter Packets: **Chapter Packets** due **8:30am** on date listed in Class Calendar, and "REDO" due by end of class on same day. ***Please note that this course is NOT a self-paced course. Each Packet has a due date; late work will not be accepted without prior consent from me.** If you are unable to attend class on a day when a **Packet** is due, the assignment may be handed in early or dropped off at Willits Campus office no later than 8:30am on due date. Make sure it has Elisabeth's or Mac's name on it. Out of Chapter Packets assigned I will drop the lowest score and average the rest in your final grade. The "chapter test prep" CD that comes with your textbook corresponds to the chapter packet problems. You can look up due dates and problem numbers for Chapter Packet assignments on Elisabeth's website:

<http://atlantis.mendocino.edu/emcmahon/>

***Suggested Exercises:** I suggest you do all "**Check Point**" problems within the text of each section, and at least every odd* 4th **practice, application, and critical thinking** exercises at the end of each assigned section. Although your work on these exercises will not be assessed, it is expected that you have attempted, and hopefully completed, all these exercises. There are three distinct types of problems that have been assigned:

*Answers to all odd problems in back of text and fully worked out solutions in manual

- The **practice exercises** don't require a lot of thought but require, well, practice to master. Every 4th problem may be too many or too few for your needs.
- **Application exercises** are not as routine and are easy to identify; there is a lot of English and not as many symbols. Make sure you attempt them for many of the chapter test questions will be like these.
- **Critical Thinking** exercises require more thought. Don't ignore these! Tackling these problems will help cement your skills.

Testing: Chapter and Cumulative Review Tests may be taken up to three times each on Math Lab computers. You **must** retake a first and/or second attempt on tests that score less than 90%. Only your best score from each test counts toward final grade. Students who score 90% or higher on chapter tests are not required to take review test for that chapter.

- Chapter tests and Cum Rev tests on computer through Cum Rev 1-8 must be completed prior to **April 24th** (last day to withdraw from class) or you may be dropped from class
- All Chapter Tests and Cumulative Reviews on testing computers must be completed by **May 9th**

Final Exam is cumulative and taken **one time only**. It may be taken before final exam period if all other work is completed.

Composition of grade:

Chapter Packets	30%
Chapter and Cumulative Review Tests (On Computer-Only best score counted for each test)	30%
Final Exam (taken one time only)	40%
90%-100%	A
82%<90%	B
75%<82%	C
70%<75%	D