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Syllabus for Intermediate Algebra *lecture course*

spring 2009 Course No: MTH 56 Section 4986 5.0 Units

Class Time: Mon: 5:30-8:00pm

Location: Room 8003

Wed: 5:30-8:00pm

Room 8004_(math lab)

Instructor: Elisabeth McMahon <mailto:emcmahon@mendocino.edu> 707-459-0430

Course MTH 56 focuses on algebra skills needed for further course work in mathematics,

Description: science and social sciences. Upon successful completion of this course, you will have the skills to accomplish the following:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the slope-intercept, point-slope, and standard forms of lines.
2. Understand and identify relations, functions, domains, ranges, and the interpretation of function notation.
3. Solve absolute value equations and inequalities.
4. Distinguish between various forms of factorable/nonfactorable polynomial expressions, and select appropriate techniques to factor them.
5. Combine and simplify rational expressions and solve simple rational equations.
6. Combine and simplify radical and complex expressions using the four basic math operations.
7. Employ factoring and the Quadratic Formula to solve equations quadratic in form.
8. Problem solve applications efficiently and effectively using the above mathematical skill.
9. Solve exponential equations in one variable using a logarithm

Method of Instruction: Section 4986 is a lecture course. Students are expected to attend lectures in Room 8003 at 5:30pm Monday and Wednesday evenings. Part of class time will be devoted to cooperative learning activities. The student will get credit for this group work that cannot be made up.

Textbook: Required: Intermediate Algebra for College Students, Fifth Edition, by Robert Blitzer, 2009, Prentice-Hall

Required: A scientific calculator, (you may **not** use a graphing calculator on computer tests but if you already own one you do not need to buy a scientific calculator)

Resources: Recommended: Student Solutions Manual to Accompany Intermediate 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, Fri 8:30-11:30, Sat 8:00-11:30)

-Math lab tutors for individual guidance and tutorial instruction

-Your best resource is your fellow students for cooperative learning. Exchange email and telephone with at least one other individual.

-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 chapter tests you will take in class. This is a terrific resource.

Course Calendar: A course calendar is attached to his syllabus. All dates are tentative and changes will be announced in class. 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.

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- Expectations:**
- You are expected to attend class and participate in discussions and cooperative classroom activities.
 - I have the right to drop a student who has not attended three or more lectures.
 - You are expected to read the text; the **first** reading of a section or sections to be covered during a particular class meeting should be done **before** class. Expect to spend 10 or more hours of outside study time per week (2 for every scheduled class unit).
 - Assignments must be completed on time

Chapter Packets: **Chapter Packets** due 5:30pm 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 Take-home Cumulative Review 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 **Take-home** is due, the assignment may be dropped off at Willits Campus office no later than 5:30pm on due date. Make sure it has my 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 find assignments posted on my faculty website:

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

***suggested additional 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** exercise 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:

- 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.

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

Quiz: Most classes will begin at 5:30 with a Warm-up Quiz and Cooperative learning opportunity for which you will receive credit. **These cannot be made up.**

Testing: Chapter Tests with Cumulative Review will be given throughout the semester. There are similar tests available for practice on Math Lab computers.

Make-up exam policy: You may choose to take one make-up exam during the semester if you miss a scheduled exam. A **ten percent penalty** will be deducted from a make up exam. I advise you to not use your **one** make-up opportunity during the semester for a non-emergency situation. Each student requesting a make-up exam must make the request in writing to the instructor.

Composition of grade:

Warm-Up Quizzes and Cooperative Work	10%
Chapter Packets	30%
Chapter tests and Cumulative Reviews	30%
Final Exam	30%