

Math 263  
Online Intermediate Algebra  
Course Syllabus / Fall 2009

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**Prerequisite:** Successful completion (C or better) of Beginning Algebra or equivalent (Math 261 here at MPC)

**Advisory:** Completion of prerequisite within the last 2 years.

**Required Course Materials:** You need to purchase a MyMathLab access code for *Intermediate Algebra for College Students*, 5th edition, by Robert Blitzer. There are several ways to obtain this code:

- You may purchase the stand-alone version of the MyMathLab packet (available at the MPC bookstore for \$74)
- You may purchase a new spiral bound soft cover version of the textbook bundled with MyMathLab (available at the bookstore for \$110.50)
- You may purchase an access code online using a major credit card at [www.coursecompass.com](http://www.coursecompass.com). (about \$70)

*Please be **absolutely certain** that you want to take this online class before purchasing an access code online or opening a MyMathLab packet purchased at the bookstore – there are **no returns, refunds, or exchanges!** Your access code will be valid for 12 months, so if you do not pass the course or if you drop the course, you will be able to re-take without buying a new access code.*

**Registration Information:**

- Our **course ID** is **bishop32314**
- The **zip code** for MPC is 93940

**Optional Materials:** The printed version of the textbook is *optional*. Your MyMathLab access code allows you to view the entire textbook online (including multimedia content). You also have access to an online student solutions manual. Homework will be assigned online and will not correspond exactly with problems worked out in the solutions manual.

### **Course Content:**

This is a 4 unit course, which further develops the algebra skills learned in Beginning Algebra. Topics to be covered include: properties of the real numbers complex numbers, polynomials, exponential and logarithmic functions, first-and second-degree equations and inequalities, systems of equations, progressions, graphs of conics, determinants, introduction to coordinate geometry, sequences and series, and the binomial theorem. Problem solving skills will be developed to encourage students to use their basic knowledge of algebra to understand and solve a variety of problems. This class is offered “letter grade only.”

### **Calculator Policy**

For this course you are required to have a scientific calculator. You may find a graphing calculator helpful. Calculators that do symbolic manipulation, such as the TI-89 or TI-93 will not be permitted. Ask me if you are not sure if your calculator is ok. Calculators are allowed on all exam

### **Student Information and Responsibilities**

**Student Information and Responsibilities:** As an online student, your success strongly depends on your organization, motivation, determination and commitment to this course. You need to prioritize your schedule so that you have enough time to complete this course – plan on spending *at least* 14 hours per week on learning new material, working homework problems, and reviewing for quizzes and tests. The entire textbook is available to you online. Throughout the text there are links to short videos of people working examples. There are also videos of people working solutions to the problems on each chapter test. Familiarize yourself with these resources and make frequent use of them! For more information, refer to the “[Working through the lessons](#)” handout.

- ✦ If you don’t register at [www.coursecompass.com](http://www.coursecompass.com) website by Friday August 28<sup>th</sup>, you will be dropped from the course.
- ✦ It is your responsibility to check your e-mail and the course website at least three times a week. This is the only way in which you will be able to remain involved in the course and find out about any changes or important announcements regarding the course. If you are not active on the [coursecompass.com](http://www.coursecompass.com) website for one week and do not contact me to explain why, you *may* be dropped from the course.

- If you need to drop this course, it is YOUR responsibility to complete the appropriate paperwork at MPC. This can be done either in person at the Admissions and Records office or online at [www.mpc.edu](http://www.mpc.edu). If you do not properly complete the drop process at MPC, you may receive a grade of “F” in the course.
- Please add my e-mail address (ebishop@mpc.edu) to your mail program’s safe-senders list! If you do not receive e-mail from me in the first week of class, please call or e-mail to find out why!

### **Homework**

Homework will be assigned for each section covered. Do each assignment as it is assigned; it is crucial to your success in this online class that you do not procrastinate! To understand each successive lesson, you must fully understand the previous lesson. Each homework set will have a prerequisite set so that you must complete the previous set with a score of 75% before you can move on to the next section. Homework will count as 30% of your grade.

It's critical that you keep up with the schedule. Homework needs to be submitted by the due-dates on the schedule and course calendar. **If you can't make the midnight deadline, please contact me by the next morning AT THE LATEST to request a 24-hour extension. If an extension is not requested, you will get a zero on the missed assignments. No more than three extensions will be granted for the course.**

### **Quizzes**

You will take an online quiz after every chapter. You can take each quiz up to three times, with your highest score being counted. You can only take a quiz once you have finished that chapter’s last homework assignment with at least 75% correct. Quizzes will count as 10% of your final grade.

### **Exams**

You will need to be on campus for this class 5 evenings during the semester. 4 ‘Unit’ exams and one Comprehensive Final will be taken **on campus**. Unit 1 will consist of Chapter 1 – 3, Unit 2 will cover Chapters 4 and 5, Unit 3 will cover Chapters 6 and 7 and Unit 4 will cover Chapters 8 and 9. The Final exam will cover chapter 10 and will also include a comprehensive portion. These exams are closed book. You may use a calculator on each exam; no cell phones or PDA’s will be allowed. You may also use ONE 3”x5” index card of notes (no examples). You may have two note cards on the Final.

These on-campus exams will count as 55% of your overall course grade.

Exam Schedule: All exams will be given in LTC 203/204 from 6 – 8 pm.

- Unit 1: Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup>
- Unit 2: Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>
- Unit 3: Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup>
- Unit 4: Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Final Exam: Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup>

**VERY IMPORTANT:** If these dates conflict with a night class or other commitments, you may take the exam the night before (same room and time) with Tracie Catania's class. If this still doesn't work, the only other option is to take your exam in the Physical Sciences conference/work-room. This room contains the printer, is noisy, and is also the access way to faculty offices. It's NOT an optimal place to take in exam. So, if you've got a conflict, it's best if you can make alternate arrangements and take the exams with the class.

**You will be required to show me a valid ID in order to take each exam**

### **Participation**

5% of your overall course grade will be from participation in the forums. You will be asked to turn in a participation form at each exam

### **Grading Policies**

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

5 written exams (on campus)	55%
Homework	30%
Quizzes	10%
Participation on forums	5%

Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
50% and lower	F

