

Math 263: Intermediate Algebra Online

Spring 2012

Instructor: Elizabeth Bishop

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Office Hours: 10:45 – 11:45 MWF (or by appointment).

Office Location: PS-111B

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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.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Evaluate and perform operations on algebraic expressions and solve algebraic equations (polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic).
2. Use a variety of functions and relations (linear, quadratic, exponential, and logarithmic) and their graphs to model real world applications

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)
- You may purchase a new spiral bound soft cover version of the textbook bundled with MyMathLab (available at the bookstore)
- You may purchase an access code online using a major credit card at www.coursecompass.com.

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 bishop25486
- 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, so ask me if you are not sure if your calculator is ok. Calculators are allowed on all exams, but calculator apps on cell phones are NOT allowed on exams.

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 website by Friday February 3rd, 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 website for one week and do not contact me to explain why, you *may* be dropped from the course.

If you decide to drop the class, be sure to notify the instructor and also officially drop the course online or at the registrar's office. **Thursday, May 3 at 5:00 pm** is the last day to drop the course with a grade of W. **Friday, February 24th** is the last day to drop a course with no grade of record. Please note that if you wish to drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so. If you just stop doing your homework and don't show up to the exams, you will receive a grade of F for the semester.

The new repeat policy for California Community Colleges states that beginning in Summer 2012, students will not be allowed more than three enrollments in a class, no matter what grades were previously earned. This includes grades of W (withdrawal), NP (no pass), D and F. After three enrollments in the same course at MPC, students will no longer be allowed further enrollments in that course. If the course is required, the student will need to attend another college to complete the required 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.

To succeed in this class, it's critical that you keep up with the schedule. Weekly homework must be submitted no later than the due-dates on the schedule and course calendar.

Late Homework policy: Please be aware of the homework deadlines. If you do not complete homework by the scheduled due-dates, you have 24-hours to complete your late assignments. Any homework sections completed during this 24-hour period will only earn 50% credit. After 24 hours have passed, you will still be able to access your homework, but you will not get any credit for completed problems.

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. Quizzes will count as 10% of your final grade. Quizzes are due no later than 6pm on each exam date. Quizzes will not be accepted after their due-dates.

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.

Exam Schedule: All exams will be on campus from 6 – 8 pm. I will let you know well in advance the location of the exam.

- Unit 1: Thursday Feb 23rd
- Unit 2: Thursday March 15th
- Unit 3: Thursday April 19th
- Unit 4: Thursday May 17th
- Final Exam: Tuesday, May 29th

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 and only if I'm available to proctor you. 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

Grading Policies

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

5 written exams (on campus)	55%
Homework	35%
Quizzes	10%

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