

Math 131 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA



Fall 2015

Professor Kathleen Hogue

WEBSITE: <http://www.pccmath.com>

The website is where you will find announcements, assignments, handouts, and useful links. You should check it often. If you ever have a question about the class, ALWAYS LOOK HERE BEFORE EMAILING ME. If you have a question that might apply to everyone, ask on the Canvas discussion page.

Office : R322K Phone : (626) 585-7125 email: mkhogue@pasadena.edu
Office Hours: MT 6:30-7:00 p.m.; W: 3-7 p.m. Th 11:30 a.m.-noon

Course Description: Topics to be covered include: Solving nonlinear equations such as rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic equations. Applications of nonlinear equations. Operations on and graphs of functions.

Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C in Math 125 or 126 (or its equivalent elsewhere plus passing score on the Math 131 placement test). Petitions are required (and seldom granted) to enroll in this course for a third time. Proper placement is essential; much of the material in this course is taught only as a REVIEW. This is a STEM track class. If you are not a STEM major you should consider Math 150 (Quantitative Literacy).

Text: Intermediate Algebra by Sullivan and Struve, 3rd edition.

Note: If bought in the bookstore it is a green PCC custom text. Either is fine.

If bought in the bookstore, it comes packaged with "MyMathLab" access code. We will not be using this in this course so you do not need it. You are welcome to use MyMathLab for extra practice if you like it.



Attendance: Daily attendance is required. Excessive absences or tardiness may affect course grade. Ten hours of absence constitutes basis for dismissal from the course. Students missing class are responsible for finding out what they missed and what is due. Grading : Grades will be determined based on the following percentages:

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Homework/Quizzes	10 %
Tests	60 %
Final exam	30 %.

Letter grades will be given based on the following percentages

A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: below

A note about Math Path:

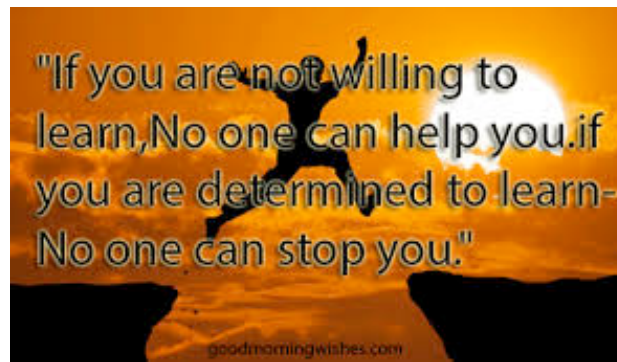
Math Path is an INTENSE program. You are essentially taking algebra TWICE as fast and so should expect to do TWICE as much homework. You should expect to spend 2-4 hours on this class outside of class EVERY DAY, even the WEEKEND! This class is not meant for everyone. If you work, struggle with math, or are taking a lot of other units, this class is not for you!



Homework/Quizzes: Homework will be assigned daily. Your homework grade will be determined in two ways: (1) your homework will be collected most days and checked for completion and/or (2) short, unannounced, quizzes will be given which often include problems taken directly from the homework assignment. So, the way to succeed on the homework portion of your grade (as well as in the class itself) is to do your homework neatly, completely, and consistently. Please note: no late homework will be accepted and no make-up quizzes will be given, even if you have a good reason for being late or absent. If you know you are going to be absent, you may turn in your assignment early or have a friend turn it in. If absolutely necessary, you can scan homework and email it to me. Read more about homework expectations [here](#).

Exams: If you know ahead of time that you will be absent on the day of an exam, it is sometimes possible to arrange to take it early, but NO make-up exams will be given.

- 4 - 5 tests will be given .
- A final exam will be given Thursday of the 8th week of class (October 22). This exam will be two hours long and will cover ALL course material.



Where to get HELP

Take responsibility for YOUR learning and seek assistance if needed. It is very important to request help as soon as difficulties arise. If you wait a week before getting help on a concept, you may be too far behind to recover. Here are some of your options:

- My office hour. Office hours are a great time to get individualized help, unfortunately it is not possible for me to repeat entire lectures, teach lacking prerequisite skills or provide daily personal tutoring during this time. It would be helpful if you could come to my office hours organized and prepared with specific questions. The office hour is also a good time to discuss your concerns

- regarding the course and your performance. Again, come as soon as concerns arise.
- Tutoring. The college offers some free tutoring. More information will be made available in the first few weeks of class. Students needing more individualized help can seek private tutoring.
 - Study Groups. Forming study groups with classmates is one of the BEST ways to be more successful in this class. Besides, it can make studying more fun!
 - Online Resources. There are SO MANY really GOOD resources online. See my LINK page for suggestions
 - The Canvas Discussion Page.
 - Other services on campus: Health, DSPS, Mental Health, etc

Calculator Usage:

You may use a calculator on the more numerically complicated homework problems, but I would discourage you from using it on the easier problems since you will not be allowed to use it until the last exam.

Personal Conduct

YOU are expected to be actively involved in YOUR education. This includes being alert in class and participating in class discussion. A good attitude on your part makes the class much more enjoyable. It is expected that you treat your classmates and me respectfully and refrain from activities that could be distracting including talking while I am talking, texting, internet surfing, sleeping, being late etc.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: In a learning environment such as Pasadena City College, it is vital that we create an atmosphere of mutual trust. Cheating, plagiarism, falsifying information, and related behaviors destroy the very essence of learning and will not be tolerated. Any such action will adversely affect your grade and will lead to disciplinary action by the College. By enrolling in this class, you agree to comply with the *Student Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy* (No. 4520 - www.pasadena.edu/IPRO/Policies/pcc_4520.pdf). Violations of conduct in class or on campus are subject to disciplinary review.

Students caught cheating may be given an F in the course and reported to the Dean of Students. During exams, your phones must not be anywhere in sight. If I even SEE them, you get an F. You are required to carry your PCC student ID at all times. I may request to check it at any time.

If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters

- Alan Simpson

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, you should be very proficient at the following:

1. Simplify nonlinear expressions.
2. Solve nonlinear equations and inequalities.
3. Evaluate, graph, and perform operations on functions.
4. Model and solve real world applications.