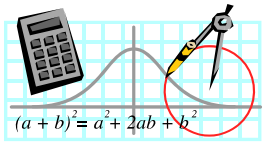
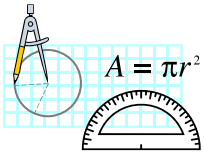
Math 830- Elementary Algebra





Tue, Thur: 1:00pm-2:45pm
Room: 3507
Section 1054
Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Lemee Nakamura
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Tue,Thur, 2:50-3:30pm
Or by appointment

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Course Description: Designed to prepare students for Intermediate Algebra. Course topics include simplifying algebraic expressions involving polynomials and rational terms; factoring; solving linear equations; solving quadratic equations using factoring; analyzing graphs of linear equations; solving applied problems.

Math 830 Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will be able to make use of factoring techniques to perform algebraic computations with rational algebraic expressions, simplifying results.

2. Students will be able to translate applied problems involving geometry into computational problems involving a variable and solve.

3. Students will be able to verify solutions to applied problems.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course you should be able to:
1. evaluate and simplify algebraic expressions using the rules of exponents, order of operations combining like terms, and the distributive property
2. add, subtract, multiply and divide using either monomials or polynomials
3. solve a linear equation or inequality and check the solution
4. analyze verbal problems, model with appropriate equations, substitute the known values, solve the resulting equations, and interpret the result in the context of the problem

5. factor polynomials
6. simplify, multiply and divide rational expressions
7. graph first degree equations in two variables
8. write an equation for a given line, identify the slope of a line
9. solve quadratic equations by factoring.

Required Materials: ***"Introductory and Intermediate Algebra* for College Students (3rd edition)"**; Robert Blitzer, (ISBN# 978-0-13-602895-6)

Calculators: We will ***not*** be using calculators in class or on tests. However, if a calculator is needed for portions of this class, I will let you know in advance.

Homework:

1. Practice Problem Sets (PPS): 7 PPS (8 points each) are assigned during the semester. At the end of the semester, I will **drop 2** lowest PPS scores. Practice Problem Sets are assigned for every class meeting. Refer to the ***"Practice Sets and Course Outlines"*** for problem numbers and due dates. Before each class meeting, check your completed practice set that is due at that meeting by comparing your answers with the answers given in the back of the book. Each practice problem set must be stapled. Each PPS is due at the beginning of the class period.

2. Graded Homework Sets (HW): 14 HW sets (10 points each) are assigned during the semester. At the end of the semester, I will **drop 2** lowest HW scores. Refer to the *"Graded Homework Assignments"* for problem numbers and due dates. Each homework assignment must have a cover sheet and stapled. Each HW is due at the beginning of the class period.

No late homework/practice problem set is accepted, even for legitimate reasons. To receive full credit you must complete the assignment in accordance with the "*Instructions for Completing Homework"* handout and get the correct solution for each problem. I will explain how each homework assignment is being graded during the lecture.

Note: The completion of every practice set and graded homework assignment is important to your success in this class. Do not fall behind. Catching up just before a test is extremely difficult!

Review Sheet: 5 Review Sheets (8 points each) are given during the semester. There will be **no dropped** review sheet scores.

Quizzes: You will be given a 5 minute quiz (10 points each) **every Thursday**. There will be a **total of 12 quizzes**. I will **drop 2** lowest quiz scores at the end of the semester. The quizzes are based of your "Practice Problem Sets." I may give the quiz at the very beginning, middle, or end of the class period. Hence, it is extremely important that you attend the lecture for the entire time.

Extra Credit: You may earn up to 20 extra credit points by doing the following activities:

a). Attend the "Learning Communities." (1pt per one hour)
*Starts on the 3rd week of classes.
b). Go see a tutor by making an appointment. (1pt per one hour)
c). Make an appointment and go see a counselor at MCC. (3pts – one time only)
d). I may give some "pop"- extra credit during the lecture.

Exams: There will be 5 exams and a final exam in which one will be a "take-home" exam. Please be aware of the following tentative exam dates. Exams may be given early to students if the circumstances warrant. Please see me at least one week before the scheduled exam date if you wish to take an exam early. **Make-up exams/ late exams will NOT be allowed!!** Hence, it is extremely important that you are aware of the following exam dates. Please remember that there are ***NO dropped exams*** in this course. Thus, a missed exam counts as a zero.

Tentative In-Class Exam Dates:

Exam #1: 9/10/09 (Thrs)
Exam #2: 9/29/09 (Tue)
Exam #3: 10/13/09 (Tue)
Exam #4: 10/27/09 (Tue)
Exam #5: Given: 11/10/09 (Tue)
Due: 11/17/09 (Tue)

Final Exam: December 17th (Thurs) 1:00pm-3:00pm
All students must take the final exam, or they will receive an **F in this course grade.**

School Holidays: Sept. 7th (Mon), Nov. 13th (Fri), Nov. 26,27th (Thurs, Fri)

Important Dates:
-Deadline to drop class with no record and receive refund: 9/5/09
-Deadline to file for Pass/No Pass grading option: 9/25/09
-Deadline to drop with a "W" grade (Withdraw): 11/20/09

Grading Procedures: Your course grade will be based on the following:

Graded Homework Assignments: 12 x 10 = 120 pts (after dropping two lowest scores, very last hw set is not due)
Practice Problem Sets: 5 x 8 pts = 40 pts (after dropping two lowest scores)
Review Sheets: 5 x 8 pts = 40 pts
Quizzes: 10 x 10 pts = 100 pts (after dropping two lowest scores)
Exams: 5x100 pts = 500 pts
Final Exam: 200 pts

Total Possible Points: 1000 points

Grade	Total Points
A	900 – 1000
B	800 – 899
C	700 – 799
D	600 – 699
F	Below 599, 599 included

Incomplete Grade: Students seeking an "Incomplete" grade must consult with me no later than the week prior to finals. Incompletes will only be considered for unforeseeable, emergency and justifiable reasons at the end of the term, and only upon agreement of conditions for completing coursework.

Pass/No Pass Grade Option: You have the option to choose Pass/No Pass grading for this class. If you choose this option, you must submit a Petition for Pass/No Pass to Admissions & Records by 2/23/09. This option for grading is nonreversible once selected. The petition form is available online, or from Admissions & Records. Students planning to transfer should consult with a counselor before opting for Pass/No Pass to ensure this option is accepted by their intended transfer institutions. Check the MiraCosta College catalog or schedule for more detailed information.

Studying Math: A good rule is to set aside eight to twelve hours per week to do your homework assignments and to complete other study and learning tasks. These tasks include: reviewing notes, completing practice problems, working in MathPro5, viewing video CD's, Reading the text, doing examples from the text, making outlines or 3x5 cards, getting help from your instructor, study group members or peers, or getting help in the MLC or the Tutoring Center. Do not allow yourself to fall behind in your work. Catching up before a test is an extremely difficult task.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is an important element in your academic success. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to learn the material covered the day of your absence. Office hours may NOT be used to repeat lectures given on class days that you missed.

Being Dropped from Class: You may be dropped from the class if you miss more than two lectures. You may also be dropped from the class if you are

absent on an exam day. If you are ill or have an emergency on the day of the exam, you must speak with me on that day or earlier.

Cell Phones: To demonstrate respect for the rights of others in the classroom, please turn off cell phones or set to vibrate only. If your cell phone "rings," please leave the classroom immediately.

Courtesies:

- When your instructor is speaking, refrain from talking to your neighbors. The noise is distracting and disruptive.
- While in class, focus on mathematics. Save personal conversations for outside the classroom.
- When working with other class members, please be encouraging, positive, and helpful. Be sensitive to the feelings of others. Please avoid criticism and teasing or joking that might be hurtful to others. RESPECT your classmates.

Keys to Success: (also read "Tips for Being Successful in Learning Mathematics.")

1. **Make use of office hours:** Please take advantage of my regular office hours if you need help. If you cannot come during scheduled office hours, please schedule an appointment for help or advice regarding this course. Please do not hesitate to ask. You may also reach my office by phone and email.

2. **Getting Help:**
   a. Videos on CD: If you have purchased the text package, it includes VCDs that accompany our text. These videos contain a lecture for each section in the text. Use them to review past material, go over current lecture material, or hear a lecture on material covered on any days that you are absent.
   b. Tutoring: Free tutoring is available in the Tutoring Center located in the Library and Information Hub.
   c. Study Groups: Get together with other class members and form a study group which meets regularly to do homework and study.

d. MLC Assistance/Computer tutorials: Instructors and aids in the MLC are available to answer homework questions that you may have.

e. Learning Communities: LC will start on the 3rd week of instruction. There will be a LC facilitator who can help you with your math.

Accommodation of Disability: Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning, or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs & Services as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. Their phone number is 795-6658 and they are located in Building 3000-Student Services, Room 3009, adjacent to Parking lot 3C.

Academic Honesty: I fully support MiraCosta College's belief that academic honesty is a cornerstone of the educational community. To that end, I demand academic honesty of my students. Students who bring unauthorized material to an exam or copy from someone else's exam/homework will receive a zero on the exam/homework and will not be allowed to drop or replace that exam/homework. This class will be conducted in accordance with MiraCosta College's policy on "Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Staff Members," and basic standards of academic honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Students are expected to respect and obey standards of student conduct while in class, or on the campus. Charges of misconduct and disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon those who violate these standards of conduct, or provisions of college regulations.

I look forward to getting to know each of you.
Good luck, enjoy the course, and
Let's have a great semester!!!