

Syllabus Fall 2008

Math 108 Intermediate Algebra (4 cr)

Purpose.

Successful completion of this course is sufficient preparation for College Algebra (MATH 143), Trigonometry (MATH 144), Precalculus (MATH 147), Brief Calculus (MATH 160) or Math for Elementary Teachers (MATH 157). This course does **not** meet the math skills requirement of the general education core curriculum. This course is **not** a review or preparation for Finite Math (Math 130) or Algebra and Trigonometry with Applications (Math 137).

Description.

Intermediate algebra builds on the fundamental concepts introduced in elementary algebra. This course emphasizes the concepts of function, domain, range, and zeros and includes the study of linear, absolute value, quadratic, logarithmic, exponential, radical, and rational functions, expressions and equations. Other topics include complex numbers, composition of functions, inverses of functions, properties of logarithms, exponent rules, systems of equations, and Gauss Jordan elimination using matrices. A graphing calculator is used extensively.

Methods of Instruction.

Concepts and skills are introduced through reading, group exercises and whole class instruction and practiced in homework exercises completed outside of class. You are expected to learn independently and should plan on spending **at least** 8 hours a week outside of class completing assignments and studying for quizzes and exams.

Prerequisites.

MA 24 or 25 (C or better) *or* Math ACT score ≥ 19 *or* Quantitative SAT score ≥ 440 *or* COMPASS Algebra score of 41 - 61. Successful completion of high school mathematics coursework does not substitute for the former prerequisites.

Instructor. Laura Bracken

Office Hrs. Monday – Thursday: 9 -10:15 am; other hours by appointment.

Office. Room B1, Meriwether Lewis Hall (MLH), accessible by elevator.

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Text. Intermediate Algebra, Bracken and Miller.

Calculator. A scientific calculator such as a TI-30XA (*not* a graphing calculator) is required at every class and cannot be shared. A Voyage 200 calculator will be signed out to you after the first test. If it is not returned at the final exam or if you drop the class, a hold will be placed on your records and you will not be permitted to register at LCSC.

Other. Graph paper; stapler.

If course adaptations or accommodations are needed because of a disability, if you need to make me aware of emergency medical information, or if you will need special arrangements in case of building evacuation, please contact me as soon as possible or by the 10th day of the semester. If you have received accommodations that include taking tests in an alternative environment, you are responsible for making an appointment to do so in the Office of Student Life (Reid Hall, 792-2211). You may audiotape any part of class.

You are expected to monitor your LCMail e-mail student account for class announcements, even if you do not own a personal computer or have an Internet connection at home. Computer access is provided for all students on campus.

If extraordinary circumstances that occur during the semester make it impossible for you to meet the requirements of the course, contact me in person or by phone during office hours or by appointment or send an e-mail. If you do not successfully complete course requirements or drop/withdraw from the class, you will receive a grade of F.

The last date to drop this class without a permanent entry on your transcript is Sept 8. The last date to withdraw from this course with a W on your transcript is Oct 31. After that date, withdrawal is permitted only by petition and approval by the division chair. The division chair requires documentation of extraordinary circumstances that prevented you from withdrawing by Oct 31.

You will receive a semester grade based on your final average using this grade scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
≥92%	≥90%	≥88%	≥83%	≥80%	≥78%	≥70%	≥60%	<60%

Your semester grade depends on homework (20%), six tests (55%), group work and class participation (5%), final exam (20%), and passing of all mastery skill quizzes. The final exam is required.

Daily Homework: 20% of your semester grade No late work is accepted.

Homework is collected each day at the end of class and must include a completed assignment sheet. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are doing the problems correctly; answers for most homework problems are found in the text. Only selected problems are graded. It is your responsibility to ask for help. We will spend almost no time on homework problems in class. You can get help from me during office hours, during the 15 minutes after class in the classroom, or from the tutors in the Math-Science Tutoring Center (also known as the “Math Lab”).

Even if you have a good reason for missing class or not having homework done, late work is not accepted. You should still complete the assignment and check your answers. The three lowest homework grades earned during the semester will be dropped at the end of the semester. This allows you to receive a 0 on three homework assignments during the semester without affecting your grade. Save these three “free assignments” for illness or emergencies.

If an extraordinary circumstance comes up in your life that will prevent you from completing homework for more than three class periods, please talk to me individually during office hours or make an appointment. Special arrangements can be made in extraordinary circumstances.

6 Tests: 55% of your semester grade

No retakes. If you need an alternative test environment, please talk to me during office hours or via e-mail. Make up tests are allowed only if you contact me by 11:30 am of the day of the test by phone or e-mail with an acceptable excuse for missing the test. Acceptable excuses do not include oversleeping, change in work schedule, or mild illnesses. If you cannot reach me directly, leave a detailed message.

Investigations, Labs and Class Participation: 5% of semester grade

Group investigations and activities will be completed in class and cannot be made up.

Final Exam: 20% of your semester grade

The final exam is required and is comprehensive. Do not make travel or work plans which require you to take the final exam early.

Mastery Skill Quizzes

Every skill quiz must be passed to pass this class. **If you have even one skill quiz that is not successfully completed by the end of this class, you will fail this class.** If you make a mistake on the quiz, you will retake it at the end of a later class or during office hours. Retakes are not given on the same day that you get the quiz back. If you are absent and miss a skill quiz, just complete the retake during regular class time. If you retake a quiz that you've already passed and you fail it, you must retake it again until you pass it again. All other papers must be completely cleared from the desk when completing a skill quiz. Carefully note whether a calculator is allowed. No sharing of calculators is allowed. Cheating is absolutely unacceptable and is a violation of a violation of the student code of conduct.

Expectations for Classroom Behavior.

- **Be on time.**
 - It is better to attend for even ten minutes than to miss class. I will not embarrass you if you enter late. If we are doing a group exercise, do not expect the group to wait for you or help you to catch up. You will not earn the points for the group exercise if you arrive too late.
- **Do not interrupt the learning of others.**
 - You may quietly leave the room to use the bathroom or to get a drink of water. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off or in vibration mode.
 - Do not conduct social conversations with other students while I am lecturing. However, you should feel free to ask questions at any time during lecture.
 - Do not do your homework during class. This distracts other students.
 - Bringing children to class should be avoided.

Academic Dishonesty:

According to the Lewis-Clark State College Student Code of Conduct found in the Student Handbook, cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. All work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts and current understanding. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, helping others to cheat, and plagiarism. **Examples of academic dishonesty include looking at previous skill quizzes or notes during a skill quiz, allowing someone to copy your homework, telling someone in the afternoon section about the test in the morning section, submitting answers from the back of the book instead of actually doing the problems, copying someone else's work on a test or skill quiz, or using a calculator when told not to do so.** Collaborative homework is acceptable as long as all the participants fully participate in the work. Students are encouraged to work together on homework and to study together for exams. There is a clear difference between collaboration and copying.

Academic dishonesty in this course will result in a grade of F and the code of conduct violation will be reported to the appropriate administrative office for further action.

Math Placement

ACT Math	SAT Quant	COMPASS	Course
1-15	200-380	Pre-Algebra 0-45	MATH 015 Arithmetic and Pre-Algebra
16-18	390-460	Pre-Algebra 46-100 Algebra 0-45	MATH 024 Elementary Algebra MATH 025 Basic Algebra and Geometry
19-36	470-800	Algebra 46-100	MATH 108 Intermediate Algebra MATH 123 Mathematics for Technology MATH 130 Finite Mathematics MATH 137 Algebra/Trig with Applications
23-36	550-800	Algebra 61-100	MATH 143 College Algebra MATH 157 Math/Elem School Teachers MATH 186 Discrete Mathematics MATH 254 Statistical Methods/Sciences
27-36	630-800	College Algebra 51-100	MATH 144 Trigonometry MATH 160 Brief Calculus
29-36	660-800	Trigonometry 51-100	MATH 170 Calculus I

LCSC Mathematics Course Flow Chart

Courses which fulfill the Math Skills Component are shaded.
 MATH 157/257 meet the Math Skills Requirement as a pair only.
 MATH 143/144 meet the MATH Skills Requirement as a pair only.

