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MAT 100.03: Intermediate Algebra

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MAT 100
Intermediate Algebra
Syllabus Updates

Excellence is achieved by the mastery of fundamentals.

-- Vince Lombardi

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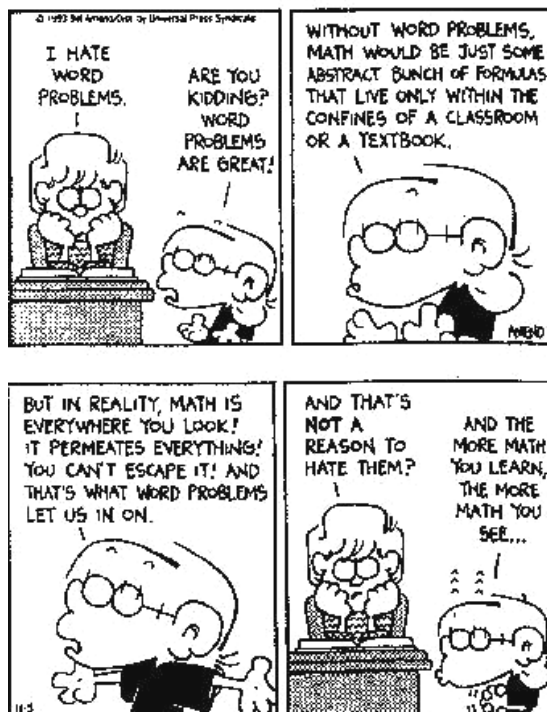
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Text: *Intermediate Algebra*, 7th edition by Marvin L. Bittinger and David J. Ellenbogen

MAT 100 is a one-semester intermediate algebra course. Algebra allows us to solve for unknown quantities, draw graphs of relationships between numbers and make use of the inherent structure of our number system. The greater goal in this course is to deepen your appreciation for and ability with abstract reasoning.

I want to emphasize to all of my students how important *your* role is in succeeding in this course. Although attendance is not part of your final grade, I cannot teach you if you are not in class ready to learn. Turn off your cell phone. Come prepared. Pay attention and *keep thinking!* No matter how you feel about studying math, or how math fits into your career plans, I can assure you that it is important to learn personal responsibility and show that you have a solid work ethic. That does not mean that I expect this class to be dull! What it does mean is that you have a lot to do with how the "feel" of the class develops. You ARE the class and you can make it lively and interesting or you can make it silent and boring. Personally, I prefer lively with lots of questions and student interaction ... but it's up to you. If you do the work you will find the classes make sense and the challenges are reasonable, not overwhelming.

Fox Trot



Course Outline

Aug 28 §1.1, 1.2	Aug 30 §1.3, 1.4	Sep 1 §1.5, 1.6, 1.7
Sep 4 Labor Day -- No School	Sep 6 §2.1, 2.2	Sep 8 §2.3, 2.4
Sep 11 §2.5, 2.6 Collect HW	Sep 13 §3.1, 3.2	Sep 15 §3.3
Sep 18 §3.6, 3.8	Sep 20 Test 1	Sep 22 §4.1, 4.2
Sep 25 §4.3	Sep 27 §4.4	Sep 29 §5.1, 5.2 Collect HW
Oct 2 §5.3, 5.4	Oct 4 §5.5, 5.6	Oct 6 §5.7
Oct 9 §6.1	Oct 11 §6.2	Oct 13 §6.3
Oct 16 §6.4, 6.5	Oct 18 Test 2 Collect HW	Oct 20 §7.1
Oct 23 §7.2	Oct 25 §7.3, 7.4	Oct 27 §7.5
Oct 30 §7.6	Nov 1 §7.7	Nov 3 §7.8
Nov 6 §8.1 Collect HW	Nov 8 §8.2	Nov 10 Veterans' Day -- No School
Nov 13 §8.3	Nov 15 §8.4, 8.5	Nov 17 §8.6
Nov 20 §8.7	Thanksgiving Vacation -- No School	
Nov 27 §8.8	Nov 29 Test 3	Dec 1 §9.1
Dec 4 §9.2	Dec 6 §9.3	Dec 8 Review Collect HW

Grades -- Problem sets are taken directly from the homework problems. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is for you to be diligent in your study habits. You will not learn math by osmosis or wishful thinking; you need to put in the effort in order to be able to learn the material. Your work needs to be clear and legible so that it can be evaluated. I will not grade illegible papers. Final grades will be based on the chapter tests, the problem sets, and the cumulative final. Chapter tests are worth 100 points each, problem sets are worth 10 points each, and the cumulative final is worth 150 points for a total of 500 points. The following grading scale will be used:

90-100%	A	448-500 points
80-89%	B	398-447 points
70-79%	C	348-397 points
60-69%	D	298-347 points
Below 60%	F	<298 points

Makeup Tests and Late Problem Sets

If you have special circumstances which prevent you from taking a test on time, please make every effort to notify me in advance. Only under the direst circumstances will a makeup test be permitted without prior approval. Problem sets will not be accepted after they have been closed on Blackboard without a compelling reason.

Test Return Policy

I will have corrected tests returned no later than one week after the test date. There is no way I can guarantee the return of corrected tests any sooner. If you have questions regarding corrected tests, please wait till after class to discuss them with me.

A Note on Cheating

Academic honesty is expected at all times. No form of cheating will be tolerated. The penalty for cheating on a test is loss of all points for that test; a second occurrence guarantees being reported to the administration. The University of Montana has strong sanctions against plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Cheating is not worth the effort and is unfair to those who are honest. At the same time, I understand that there is no way to enforce honesty on work done outside of the classroom. That is why the take-home tests are open book. You are welcome to get help on these tests and on the Blackboard assignments, but make an effort to learn from the experience. The work you hand in to me should be your own (even with assistance). I don't care whether your parents or friends or spouses or tutors understand the material -- I care about you and what you have learned. You won't have any help on the final exam and it is cumulative. If you haven't learned the subject, it will be apparent when you take your final . . . and that is why the final is worth as much as it is. Your final grade can make or break your overall grade. Do not take that opportunity lightly.

The final exam for this course will be held on _____ in this classroom. It will be closed book.

Final Note

I want math to be a subject you enjoy and appreciate. Learning math empowers you! You raise your self-esteem with your accomplishments and become a more valuable member to the community with your problem-solving skills. The subject is rich and rewarding, but only if you understand the basics of vocabulary and grammar so that you can speak the language.

I am looking forward to a lively and exciting semester with all of you. Please give this course your best effort so that it can be equally interesting for you!

Academic calendar available at <http://www2.umd.edu/registrar/currentcalendar.htm>

Finals schedule available at http://www2.umd.edu/registrar/finals_schedules.htm

Some useful websites: <http://www.algebrahelp.com/> (lessons)

<http://www.purplemath.com/>

<http://algebasics.com/>