Intermediate Algebra

Math 120 AC

Instructor: Rick Hough

Daily 11:10 - 2:00

Phone #: 738-4193

Website: http://www.smccd.net/accounts/hough/index.html

Text: *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra*, 3rd *Edition*, by Hubbard and Robinson. We will cover chapters 6 through 11. A TI-83+ graphing calculator is required for the course.

Office: My office is in building 2, room 2307. It is on the same floor as the cafeteria. My office hours will be Daily 10:10 - 11:00 and by appointment daily 2:10 - 3:00.

Attendance: Attendance on time is expected and required. If you know you will be absent, tell me before hand and get the assignment or call one of your classmates. Falling behind in a math class just doesn't work. Irregular attendance is grounds for being dropped.

Homework: The only way to learn math is to practice doing problems correctly after you have figured out how to do them. The tentative homework assignment sheet gives the problems you will work for homework. Each assignment is due the class after we finish that section. I will try to let you know when we finish a section and so the homework is due next time, but sometimes I am so excited to start a new section, that I forget. It is up to you to follow along well enough so that you realize that we have finished a section! If you turn in homework late, you will receive half of the points for it. Often, just doing the assigned homework is not enough practice to prepare for exams. If you need to, please feel free to work more problems! The homework counts for 5% of your grade in the class. If your exam and final average are not above 70.0%, then homework will not be counted in your grade.

Quizzes: Some days when homework is due, I will start the class with a short "pop" quiz. These will be unannounced, and will be a problem straight out of the homework. Most days we will have a "group" quiz in which you will work together with three other classmates for about 45 minutes working on problems. They will cover the material from the sections you are currently working on. There will be no make-up quizzes. Quizzes together count for 5% of your grade in the class. If your exam and final average are not above 70.0%, then quizzes will not be counted in your grade.

Journal: Often a student's success can be increased with good study habits, help from others, working in study groups, and an awareness of how things are going with ones learning as the semester progresses. With this in mind, you will be keeping a math journal to ducument your progress throughout the semester. Every day you will make entries in your journal and then I will collect them and go over them on exam days. Required journal entries include:

- A record of all study sessions, including the time of day, how many hours studied during that session, location, whether alone or in a study group, and what was your state of mind (tired, hungry, ideal, etc.).

- A record of the out of class help you received including from tutors, me, websites, friends/relatives, etc.

- Any specific questions that you find while studying. Include the section it comes from as well as when and how you got it answered.

Optional journal entries include:

- A record of any "Ahah!" moments. Sometimes while studying you come across new understanding of a math concept or study habit idea. Write these down as they happen!

- General math angst. If you are noticing a continuing frustration and don't know what to do about it, describe what's going on and bring it in to me, a tutor, or a counselor. Try to get to the bottom of these as soon as you notice them.

- Notice when things are going unexpectedly well and applaud yourself with a short note like, "Wow! An 87% on the last exam! Keep up the good work!" We all need congratulations when we do well...be the first to do it!

- Anything else that you find helpful to write in your journal. Remember though that I will be reading it!

Each journal will receive 0-10 points. 0 means I didn't receive it, 1-3 means you turned it in, but there wasn't much there, 4-6 means most of the requirements were met, but not much attention to detail was shown, 7-9 means all of the requirements were met, and an overall good job, but not quite perfect, 10 means it was exactly what I was looking for...could you help explain the journal writing assignment to the other students?!? The journal counts for 5% of your grade in the class. If your exam and final average are not above 70.0%, then the journal will not be counted in your grade.

Exams: There will be 5 exams. One each after chapters 7 - 11. If all goes well, we will cover chapter 11 before chapter 10. You are allowed to bring in one 3 inch by 5 inch note card to each exam. There will be no make-up exams, but your lowest score will be worth half as much as each of your higher exams. Exams will count for 65% of your grade in the class.

Final: The final exam will be given on Friday, July 23 during class time and will be held in our classroom. The final is cumulative and will count for 20% of your grade.

Grading: To get a C in this class, you must have a C average on the exams and the final. The homework, quiz, and journal grades will not enable a student to pass who has not, on average, passed the exams and final. All letter grades will be determined by the following standard grading curve:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{grade} \geq 90.0\% & \text{A} \\
80.0\% \leq \text{grade} < 90.0\% & \text{B} \\
70.0\% \leq \text{grade} < 80.0\% & \text{C} \\
60.0\% \leq \text{grade} < 70.0\% & \text{D} \\
\text{grade} < 60.0\% & \text{F}
\end{array}
$$

Important Dates: June 14 $\longrightarrow$ first day of class. July 5 $\longrightarrow$ holiday. June 23 $\longrightarrow$ Final Exam.