### Math 152, Intermediate Algebra (STEM)

**Instructor:** J Carl Krause  
**Email:** joseph.krause@cabrillo.edu  
**Phone:** 831 479 5062  
**Office Hours:** M - Th, 11 – 12:30 in Room 711E

---

**Course Focus**  
This version of intermediate algebra (unlike Math 142) is intended for STEM majors and assumes that you will be going on to precalculus, calculus (where math starts to get pretty interesting), and hopefully beyond (where math starts to really blow your mind). That being the case, as the instructor of this course my focus will be more on the theory and mechanics of algebra and less on the “real world” applications (i.e. data driven analysis, translating words into algebra).

**Course Materials**  
There is no required textbook for this course … all the homework problems can be printed out from my website. You may find other interesting links on my website:

http://www.cabrillo.edu/~jkrause

While there is no required text for this course, I strongly recommend that you have easy access to an intermediate algebra textbook for further explanation and examples. You will need a scientific calculator for this course. If you do not already own one, you should purchase one (they're pretty cheap). Before purchasing a calculator, think about which math courses, if any, you intend to take after this one. You may want to purchase a calculator that will be appropriate for several courses … that is, you may want to consider a graphing calculator (please talk to me before you spend a bunch of money).

**Evaluation**  
Your understanding of the material presented in this course will be evaluated by weekly homework assignments (about 50 points total), numerous small, in-class, group quizzes (about 100 points total), 3 in-class exams (100 points each), and 1 comprehensive final exam (200 points). Missed quizzes cannot be made up, but I will drop the two lowest quiz scores at the end of the semester. The scheduled exam dates are on the reverse side of this paper. If you cannot make (or miss or choose not to take) a scheduled exam it will be linked to the final exam. I do not give “make up” exams. Each class meeting I will assign homework problems from the practice problems on our course website. These problems are intended to give you practice with a variety of algebraic skills and ultimately show you the types of problems that I will expect you to be able to do on exams. You will be expected to work through these problems and to seek assistance in the case of difficulty. If you want to do well in this class it’s vital that you understand the material, homework problems will be due at the start of each week.

**Attendance**  
I will take roll for the first 2 weeks. If you miss one of these days you will be dropped from the class (unless there are special circumstances … contact me as necessary). After this time, I will not take roll and attendance will be up to you. Please keep in mind that, since we don't follow a specific text, the class notes are a vital resource. If you miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to get the notes and assignment from someone else in the class (do not call or email me asking me what we covered and/or what problems were assigned), discuss the notes with others, then come ask me questions about the material if necessary. If you need to miss a significant amount of class time please contact me.

**Course Grade**  
Your grade will be computed as a straight average: the total number of points earned divided by the total points possible. I do not “curve” grades but you may make corrections to the 3 in-class exams (see the Rework Policy for details). I will use the standard grading scale, so letter grades correspond to the following ranges of averages: A [89.5-100+], B [79.5-89.4], C [69.5-79.4], D [59.5-69.4], F[0-59.4]. To go on to the next course in the math sequence you must earn a grade of C or higher in this course. This course is not available on a “pass/no pass” basis. Please keep all graded papers so you can verify grades in the event of a bookkeeping error on my part. You may verify your average with me at any point in the course.

**Resources**  
I am always willing to help: it's my job and it's what I enjoy doing. I am always available during office hours to discuss any aspect of the course, course material, or your educational goals. Your classmate is an excellent resource … form study groups early in the course. There is free tutoring available in the Math Learning Center (MLC) at the Aptos campus, the Integrated Learning Center (ILC) at the Watsonville campus, as well as from a variety of other sources. Chances are you will need the help of outside resources at some point during the course. Make sure you know what resources are available to you.

**Classroom Atmosphere**  
I like to keep things somewhat informal in the classroom, but we do need to maintain an environment that is respectful and conducive to learning. Please do not do things that are disruptive to me and/or your fellow students. Cell phones should not ring (nor appear) during class time and there is no texting allowed during lecture. Disruptive students will be asked to leave. Repeat offenders will be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs.

**Commitment**  
One of the most vital issues surrounding your success in this course is your personal commitment … this I cannot really help you with. Only you can decide for yourself how important it is for you to pass this course. If it is important for you to pass this course, make sure you do everything you can to set yourself up for success: attend, pay attention, take detailed notes, and do all of the assigned homework. Can you think of other things that you could do to help you succeed? Can you think of things that might hamper your success? Think ahead … and plan ahead.

**Student Learner Outcomes**

1. Evaluate appropriate techniques to apply to various types of equations and inequalities and produce and interpret solution(s).  
2. Create, analyze, and solve a mathematical model describing a real life application.  
3. Analyze and interpret mathematical and physical meaning from graphs of various functions.  
4. Demonstrate algebraic literacy for subsequent math courses.

---

**Meeting Times:** TTh, 8 – 10:25am, Rm 708  
**Textbook:** None  
**Supplements:** Any intermediate algebra text  
**Required Calculator:** Any scientific calculator

---

**Contacting Me**  
I will hold office hours in my office in Room 711E at the times listed above. Please take advantage of office hours … they are an excellent opportunity to get your questions answered outside of the classroom environment. If you need to contact me otherwise, email is best … I tend to monitor email, voice mail not so much. Whatever the means, know that I am always available to you to discuss any aspects of the course and/or your educational goals … I am here as your advocate.

---

**Resources**

- [STEM](http://www.cabrillo.edu/~jkrause)