Math 152, Intermediate Algebra, Course Information

Instructor: J Carl Krause
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Office Hours: M - Th, 11:00am – 12:30pm in Room 711E

Meeting Times: TTh, 12:40 - 3:05pm, Room 806
Textbook: None
Supplements: Any intermediate algebra text
Required Calculator: Any scientific calculator

Office Hours ... 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 questions answered outside of the classroom environment. My office phone number is 479-5062. If you need to leave a message, please be brief.

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 (as well as “learner outcomes”) 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.

Evaluation ... Your understanding of the material presented in this course will be evaluated by 3 in-class exams (100 points each), 1 comprehensive final exam (200 points), and numerous small, in-class, group quizzes (about 100 points total). 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) one of the scheduled exams it will be linked to the final exam ... I do not give "make up" exams. Each class meeting I will assign sets of practice problems from the course website. These problem sets are intended to give you practice with the types of problems that I will expect you to be able to do. These problem sets will not be collected. 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 all of the homework.

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 final exam schedule, group 

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 Rework Policy handout 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 classmates are 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 Individualized 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 absolutely no texting allowed during lecture. Disruptive students will be asked to leave. Repeat offenders will be dropped from the class.

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...