

Math 95, Section 1 Intermediate Algebra Fall 2020 Syllabus

George Adams Email: gadams@uwsp.edu preferred method of contact OR Zoom Chats using UWSP email account	Virtual Office Hours (thru Zoom in Canvas)	Final Exam: Thursday, October 22, 5-7pm
	Tuesdays at 8:00, Wednesdays at 8:00, NOTE: Other office hours by appointment. Zoom Chats using UWSP email	

MATH 95 Intermediate Algebra 2 credits

Linear equations including graphing, exponents, radicals, function notation, and quadratic equations.

Prerequisite: Math 90 or suitable placement score.

Required Text: Elementary & Intermediate Algebra, 5th Ed., by Alan S. Tussy and R. David Gustafson, customized for UWSP. Available as a textbook rental from the campus bookstore.

How Does Online Learning Work? (Borrowed from Minneapolis School District)

In a traditional classroom, you often learn by listening. Online courses are different. Instead of learning by listening, you will learn by doing; by reading, writing, and performing other activities specially designed by your instructor.

In online courses, students "attend" class by visiting the class web pages and completing assignments according to the class schedule. Students communicate regularly with the instructor and classmates using e-mail and online discussion forums.

This class format is very flexible for busy schedules. Students can often log on to the course at any time of the day (or night). However, certain computer skills and a degree of determination are necessary to be successful. It comes as a big surprise to many online students that they actually have more contact with their fellow students online than they would in the regular classroom. This is because there are many ways for students to interact online: discussion boards, email, group activities, etc. It can be fun to meet students, and it can also be a great way to broaden your learning experience.

To Be Successful, you will need:

- 1) Persistence; work 'til you get it.
- 2) Time Management and Motivation; plan on at least 4-6 hours of HW per class meeting
- 3) Assertive Communication; ask questions of your professor (me) right away. Students who communicate with me have always done well in class.
- 4) Reading and writing math both online and using the textbook; read and understand the examples; know how to use WebAssign and get help when needed
- 5) Good Study Environment:
 - a. Reliable Internet
 - b. Peace and Quiet; no distractions
 - c. Turn your cellphone off
 - d. Only open tabs related to your assignment
 - e. Comfortable, well-lit work space.

Zoom Do	Zoom Don't
Mute yourself while not talking	Take Zoom into the bathroom; NEVER
Use an appropriate background	Activate video with distractions present
Act and dress like you're in a classroom setting	Wear clothes that you wouldn't wear to class
Keep class discussions on topic	Eat/Drink while on video
Contribute to class discussion and ask questions	Share the meeting information with others

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon the successful completion of this course you will depart with the understanding that:

1. Algebraic expressions can be rewritten in an equivalent simplified form.
2. Solving equations/inequalities is a process where to find value(s) that yield a true statement.
3. There are several methods to use in solving equations/inequalities so analysis of the problem will determine the appropriate method to use.

You will meet the outcomes listed above by completing homework, quizzes and tests in WebAssign, submitting your written work for the quizzes and tests, and by taking a final exam in Canvas.

Expected Instructor Response Times

- I will attempt to respond to student emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours please resend your email.
- ***If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Course Q&A Discussion Forum found on the course homepage. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.
- I will attempt to grade written work for tests and quizzes within 72 hours.

Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system Canvas and the math software WebAssign. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course from the [Canvas Login Page](#). If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

I have organized the course into weekly modules in Canvas. Each week you will have video lessons to watch, followed by homework assignments to complete in WebAssign. In addition to watching the lesson videos, you should also read your textbook, and copy all the examples given, so you understand the steps required to work each problem (see "Tips For Success/How to Study" at the end of this document). Then you will be better prepared to do your homework. After week one, each week will also include a quiz or a unit exam.

Due Dates: It is your responsibility to make every effort to keep up with the scheduled work. Only in rare cases will I extend a homework due date beyond the automatic extension period. Quizzes and exams may not be made up unless arranged with me ahead of time, and then only for sufficient reason. You may reach out for help at any time! You may work ahead; however, the quizzes and tests must be taken on the scheduled days. Dates for the quizzes and exams, and due dates for the assignments are in the calendar in Canvas, and are also at the end of the syllabus.

Important Note: This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement in Canvas!

Student Expectations

In this course you will be expected to complete the following types of tasks.

- communicate via email and Zoom Chats
- view online videos
- complete homework, quizzes and tests online using WebAssign
- upload documents to Canvas to submit your written quiz/test work
- stay on task and meet the due dates
- contact your instructor (via email) or attend her office hours in Zoom whenever you need help

Technology

Protecting your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website. <https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/>

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP)
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices

Course Technology Requirements

- View this website to see [minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas](#).
- You will also need access to the following tools to participate in this course.
 - webcam
 - microphone
 - printer
 - a stable internet connection (don't rely on cellular)

UWSP Technology Support

- Visit with a [Student Technology Tutor](#)
- Seek assistance from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk)
 - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
 - IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu



Canvas Support

Click on the Help button in the global (left) navigation menu and note the options that appear:

Support Options	Explanations
Ask Your Instructor a Question Submit a question to your instructor	Use Ask Your Instructor a Question sparingly; technical questions are best reserved for Canvas personnel and help as detailed below.
Chat with Canvas Support (Student) Live Chat with Canvas Support 24x7!	Chatting with Canvas Support (Student) will initiate a <i>text chat</i> with Canvas support. Response can be qualified with severity level.
Contact Canvas Support via email Canvas support will email a response	Contacting Canvas Support via email will allow you to explain in detail or even upload a screenshot to show your particular difficulty.
Contact Canvas Support via phone Find the phone number for your institution	Calling the Canvas number will let Canvas know that you're from UWSP; phone option is available 24/7.
Search the Canvas Guides Find answers to common questions	Searching the Canvas guides connects you to documents that are searchable by issue. You may also opt for Canvas video guides .
Submit a Feature Idea Have an idea to improve Canvas?	If you have an idea for Canvas that might make instructions or navigation easier, feel free to offer your thoughts through this Submit a Feature Idea avenue.

All options are available 24/7; however, if you opt to email your instructor, she may not be available immediately.

- Self-train on Canvas through the [Self-enrolling/paced Canvas training course](#)

Calculators: You may use any four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator, **except** calculators including pocket organizers, handheld or laptop computers, electronic writing pads, pen-input devices or **calculators built into cellular phones or other wireless communication devices**, calculators with a typewriter keypad with keys in QWERTY format, calculators with built-in computer algebra systems; *prohibited* calculators in this category include: Casio: Algebra fx 2.0, ClassPad 300, and all model numbers that begin with CFX-9970G, Texas Instruments: All model numbers that begin with TI-89 or TI-92, Hewlett-Packard: hp 48GII and all model numbers that begin with

Graded Course Activities

Click the **weekly modules** to see a chronological listing of tasks and assignments. Click the **Grades** link to see current grades. Click on **View Course Calendar** (on the right side of your home screen) to see due dates at a glance.

Homework will be assigned daily and will consist of problems you will complete in WebAssign. You will have five tries to answer each question. There are 29 equally weighted assignments (including the “Getting Started Using WebAssign” one), and the three lowest grades will be dropped. Each assignment is due by 11:59pm on its respective due date (except for the very last assignment). The average number of questions is 18, and the average estimated time to complete an assignment is 48-50 minutes. Remember that for each hour we would be meeting in class if we were meeting in person, you should expect to spend about two hours studying and completing homework. So you should plan to invest about 12 hours per week on this class.

When you do your homework, it is advisable to do your work on paper in an organized way (I suggest keeping a notebook so all your work is together), just as you would do if you were doing the problems directly from the textbook and handing it in to be graded. Your exams and quizzes will be in WebAssign, but I will also have you submit your written work for them, and I expect to have well written and organized work to grade, so take my advice and develop that skill when doing the homework! (Your final exam will be in Canvas, not WebAssign.)

Late Penalties for WebAssign Assignments:

- Extensions will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Quizzes and Exams: You will have four quizzes, and three unit exams. They will be made available only on the scheduled dates, and be open from 7am until 11:59pm. They will have time limits, and so plan to complete your quiz or test in one sitting. Unlike homework, you cannot start and stop, and come back later to finish it. **YOU WILL BE SUBMITTING YOUR WORK**, so as you take the quiz or test, you will do your work (neatly!) on paper, and then submit that work through Canvas in addition to submitting your answers in WebAssign. **A QUIZ OR EXAM GRADE EARNED IN WEBASSIGN MAY BE LOWERED IF YOUR SUBMITTED WORK IS INADEQUATE, MISSING, SLOPPY, OR INACCURATE.**

Final Exam: the comprehensive final exam is scheduled for **Thursday, October 22, 5-7pm**. You will be taking it in Canvas, not WebAssign. **BE SURE TO KEEP THIS TIME SLOT OPEN AND AVAILABLE IN YOUR SCHEDULE!!** (You will not be required to submit your work for the final.)

Participation

Students are expected to participate in all online activities as listed on the course calendar. You should be accessing the course at least five times a week, and are responsible for checking announcements regularly.

Evaluation: Your final course grade will be determined by the following weights:

26% for daily homework

42% for Exams

16% for quizzes

16% for the comprehensive final exam

Grading Scale:

A:	≥ 92%	A – :	≥ 90% but < 92%		
B + :	≥ 88% but < 90%	B :	≥ 82% but < 88%	B – :	≥ 80% but < 82%
C + :	≥ 78% but < 80%	C :	≥ 74% but < 78%	C – :	≥ 72% but < 74%
D + :	≥ 69% but < 72%	D :	≥ 65% but < 69%	F :	< 65%

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

For Help: 1) Ask questions as they arise. You can use the “Ask the Instructor” option in WebAssign, or just send me an email. 2) Drop in to one of my virtual office hours. (In Canvas, select Zoom in the menu, and join the meeting for that day and time. 3) Make use of the MathPad. 4) Tutoring services (through the TLC) are available for this course. More specifics for options 3 and 4 will be provided in Canvas when they become available.

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student’s responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP [Academic Calendar](#) for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student’s family.

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if circumstances arise which are beyond the student’s control and the student is unable to complete the course AND the student is passing when the circumstances arise. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within 8 weeks.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student’s responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Albertson Hall and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at datctr@uwsp.edu

Statement of Policy

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect

the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 ALB, or (715) 346-3365.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

- (1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
 - (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
 - (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
 - (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
 - (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
 - (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
 - (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

- (2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Religious Beliefs

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.

TOPICS COVERED:

Note. The order of the sections listed below is not the order in which they are covered.

5. EXPONENTS AND POLYNOMIALS

- 5.1 Rules for Exponents
- 5.2 Zero and Negative Exponents

8. TRANSITION TO INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

- 8.2 Functions
- 8.6 Review of Factoring Methods: GCF, Grouping, Trinomials
- 8.7 Review of Factoring Methods: The Difference of Two Squares; the Sum and Difference of Two Cubes

6. FACTORING AND QUADRATIC EQUATIONS

- 6.6 A Factoring Strategy
- 6.7 Solving Quadratic Equations by Factoring

9. RADICAL EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS

- 9.1 Radical Expressions and Radical Functions
- 9.2 Rational Exponents
- 9.3 Simplifying and Combining Radical Expressions
- 9.4 Multiplying and Dividing Radical Expressions
- 9.5 Solving Radical Equations
- 9.6 Geometric Applications of Radicals

10. QUADRATIC EQUATIONS, FUNCTIONS, AND INEQUALITIES

- 10.1 The Square Root Property and Completing the Square
- 10.2 The Quadratic Formula
- 10.3 The Discriminant and Equations That Can Be Written in Quadratic Form

Math 95 WebAssign Homework			
Assignment	# questions	estimated time	# points
getting started	22	22	25
5.1 Rules for Exponents 1	20	46	44
5.1 Rules for Exponents 2	20	45	23
5.2 Zero and Negative Exponents	30	70	42
8.6 Review of Factoring Methods: GCF, Grouping, Trinomials 1	18	43	21
8.6 Review of Factoring Methods: GCF, Grouping, Trinomials 2	14	49	14
8.7 Review of Factoring Methods: The Difference of Two Squares; the Sum and Difference of Two Cubes 1	15	45	18
8.7 Review of Factoring Methods: The Difference of Two Squares; the Sum and Difference of Two Cubes 2	11	43	13
6.6 A Factoring Strategy	23	64	23
6.7 Solving Quadratic Equations by Factoring	23	45	25
10.1 The Square Root Property	12	27	16
10.1 Completing the Square	12	49	15
10.2 The Quadratic Formula 1	13	49	19
10.2 The Quadratic Formula 2	10	43	14
10.3 The Discriminant and Equations That Can Be Written in Quadratic Form	13	50	13
8.2 Functions 1	20	38	39
8.2 Functions 2	14	49	16
9.1 Radical Expressions and Radical Functions 1	28	39	30
9.1 Radical Expressions and Radical Functions 2	30	66	45
9.2 Rational Exponents 1	25	36	34
9.2 Rational Exponents 2	21	52	22
9.3 Simplifying and Combining Radical Expressions 1	16	37	27
9.3 Simplifying and Combining Radical Expressions 2	18	50	18
9.3 Simplifying and Combining Radical Expressions 3	18	57	22
9.4 Multiplying and Dividing Radical Expressions 1	19	60	22
9.4 Multiplying and Dividing Radical Expressions 2	23	58	23
9.5 Solving Radical Equations 1	16	45	28
9.5 Solving Radical Equations 2	14	51	17
9.6 Geometric Applications of Radicals	18	57	27
on average:	18	48	24

Note that each assignment will be weighted evenly, and so each one is worth 1% of your overall grade, after the three lowest grades are dropped.

Tips for Success/How to Study: You should expect to spend about 2-3 hours studying for each hour of class time, on average. For this course, that means at least 8-12 hours a week should be spent studying math! Here are my tips for success:

- Take complete and neat notes as you watch the lesson videos. Note any questions you have and send me an email, drop in to an office hour, or ask to meet with me in Zoom.
- After watching a lesson, read the relevant section in the textbook/ebook, with paper and pencil handy. Write down all the key points (usually in boxes in the book!).
- Carefully copy out the textbook examples. Try to understand why each step is taken.
- NOW you are ready to do your homework.
- Keep a notebook with all your math homework.
- Stay organized.
- Write out the problem/question on your paper, then do the work required before you input your answer(s). **SHOW ALL YOUR WORK!!** Do not skip any steps.
- Do not cram your work into a small space. Neatness is very important. I will model for you what organized, well written work is when I show examples in the videos .
- When you have questions about homework problems, I expect to be able to see the work you have done so far so that I can identify where you need help.
- If you need more practice, your book has review exercises and a practice chapter test at the end of each chapter.
- You can only master math skills by practicing them. You cannot master them by watching me do problems; you must do the work and always ask for help if you need it!

And finally...

“Math is hard,” Barbie famously declared. Well, Barbie was right, but math is not uniquely hard. Playing the violin is hard, hitting a baseball is hard, and learning a second language is hard. What seems to make mathematics different from playing the violin or learning Chinese is that the struggle to play violin doesn’t make people feel defeated and dumb. Somehow, when we encounter difficulties in mathematics, our natural tendency is to retreat, to think it’s too hard, we’re not smart enough, or we’re not “math people.” We allow ourselves to be defeated by the difficulty. We understand that learning to play the violin requires making many, many hours of horrible screeching sounds, that learning to speak Chinese means making error after error and not being understood. But, somehow, when it comes to mathematics, we fear making mistakes. We imagine that there are “math people” to whom it is all transparent and, if it doesn’t come to us immediately, we must not be one of them. There are no such people. People who succeed in mathematics, like people who learn a musical instrument or a new language, spend a lot of time not understanding and feeling frustration. **The path to understanding in mathematics necessarily involves, in the words of Steve Klee, being “willing to struggle.”** It is strange that people do not understand this about mathematics when it is commonplace in essentially every other field of human endeavor....

There are dangerous myths in mathematics. One of them is that there exist “math people,” people to whom it all comes easily and is obvious. People who study the theory of learning are discovering that grit and persistence in the face of difficulty are much more important than any inherent talent in learning mathematics. **Simply believing that study and struggle are more important to learning than innate ability leads (through productive study and struggle) to more learning and more understanding.** There are no “math people,” mathematical thinking is a fundamental part of every human’s intellectual capacity. **The people we label “good at math” are simply those who have taken the time and trouble to engage the struggle more deeply than others.**

From the forward to [Living Proof – Stories of Resilience Along the Mathematical Journey](#), produced and distributed by the American Mathematical Society and The Mathematical Association of America.

https://www.maa.org/sites/default/files/pdf/ebooks/pdf/LivingProof_WEB.pdf

WEBASSIGN

We will be using Cengage Web Assign for completing HW, quizzes, and exams.

Students will be provided a code for a copy of WebAssign for Math 095 that is funded through a grant; free to you. This code will be provided late in the second week or early in the third week of class. **Students must enroll in the 14 day free trial to begin the course.**

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

SUPPORTED BROWSERS

Windows[®]

- Chrome™ 79 and later
- Firefox[®] 74 and later
- Edge 17 and later

macOS™

- Chrome 79 and later
- Safari[®] 13 and later

Linux[®]

- Firefox 59 or later

MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Search the online help for answers to most questions.

Information in this guide is intended for US students. For international support, visit the online help.

webassign.net/manual/student_guide/

WEBASSIGN STATUS

Check the current status of WebAssign at techcheck.cengage.com.

CONTACT US SUPPORT

ONLINE: support.cengage.com

CALL: 800.354.9706

ENROLL WITH A CLASS KEY

Your instructor might give you a class key like
MYSCHOOL 1234 5678 to enroll in your class. A class key
does not verify payment.

Enroll yourself in each class section only once.

1. Go to <https://webassign.net/login.html> and click **Enroll with Class Key**.
2. Enter your class key and click **Enroll**.
3. If the correct class and section is listed, click **Yes, this is my class**.
4. Sign in or create your account.

I Have a Cengage Account

1. Type your Cengage username and password.
2. Click **Sign In**.
3. If prompted, enter your student ID and click **Submit**.
4. If prompted, either sign in to your existing WebAssign account or create a new WebAssign account.

I Don't Have an Account

1. Click **Create Account**.
2. Type the details for your new Cengage account.
3. Read and acknowledge your acceptance of the Cengage service agreement.
4. Click **Create Account**.

WebAssign

George Adams,

You have added the following sections that allow self-enrollment. Here are the class keys that students in each section will need to enroll themselves:

Instructor	Section	Class Key
George Adams	Math 095, section 01	uwsp 8380 4765

Please provide the correct key to your students in each section. If you are a course coordinator, forward this information to the instructor for each section.

Thank you,

The WebAssign Team