

Syllabus

Math 95 Fall '17

Text: **Elementary and Intermediate Algebra**, 5th edition by Tussy & Gustafson

Instructor: Jed Herman Office: SCI D 287 (x4188)

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Office Hours: MW 4:00 – 4:50, T 12:00-12:50, F 2:00 – 2:50

or by appointment (or whenever I'm in... just stop

by!)

Class times & room Section 5: MTWF 3:00 – 3:50 in Science A201

Learning Objectives

- To develop proficiency with college algebra skills: exponents, factoring, solving equations, functions, radical expressions
- To learn how to communicate mathematical ideas effectively
- To learn how to work effectively in groups

Calculators

A scientific calculator will be required for this course. A graphing calculator is fine, but it is not going to be necessary. What is necessary is that your calculator is capable of exponentiation, and probably that it can handle parentheses. There are phone apps that do all of that – but you can't use your phone calculator on exams (sorry).

Attendance:

You are expected to regularly attend class. When circumstances arise to prevent you from coming to class, you should let your instructor know (email is a great way to do so). Missing exams and/or paper deadlines will only be allowed in the most dire of circumstances and WILL require ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION as to the reason for the absence.

Academic Misconduct Policy

I expect you to complete the coursework for this course.

Failure to complete an assignment will result in zero points awarded. Also see the following link:
<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>

Student Rights and Responsibilities

You have certain rights and responsibilities. For more information, see the following link:
<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsCommBillRights.pdf>

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Grading

Grading will be based on an overall percentage score, using the following scale:

90%+ A- or better 80%-89.9% B-, B or B+
 70%-79.9% C-, C or C+ 60%-69.9% D-, D or D+
 <60% F

I reserve the right to adjust the final percentage +/- up to about 2%, based on my assessment of your effort and/or participation in the class and course in general.

To get your overall score, you will be graded on the following:

Online Weekly Homework	1/6
Participation/Daily (in class) Homework	1/6
Quizzes (all five)	1/6
3 total exams (counting final)	<u>3/6</u>
Total	100%

Note: you cannot simply add your points together for each activity – a homework point and an exam point, for example, are not worth the same part of your grade.

Online Weekly Homework

People learn best by *doing* rather than watching someone else do – so I will have you do homework (nearly) every week. This homework is online via the WebAssign website. You will need to do it regularly. Note that homework is worth as much as an exam – so doing well is great for your grade! Homework will focus on topics recently covered, but old topics will crop up as well (to keep you from forgetting them).

This also means that blowing it off or not doing well could cripple your grade. I had a student once who got 97% average on her exams – no joke – but because she never bothered to do in-class work and rarely did homework, she only got a C- in the class! Don't be like that – do your work!

Extra Credit: there will be a discussion board topic listed for each week's homework. If you post a question or an answer to a question on this board, you will receive extra credit for that assignment (+1 point out of 10). Your SUBJECT LINE should include the problem number, and your MESSAGE should include a restatement (full or partial) of the problem. This way, other students will be able to read and learn from the postings. *To be eligible for the extra credit, your posting must have content – a posting such as “I agree” or “That doesn't seem right” does not earn any extra credit on homework.*

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Daily Homework

(Almost) every day, there will be one or possibly two homework problems to do before class. These are prep questions, exercises chosen to prepare you for the day's material. There will be a (few) minutes at the start of class for you to compare your answers with those of your classmates – that way you can help each other understand the problems and get them correct before they are turned in.

Note: your classmates can *help* each other, but EACH MUST TURN IN THEIR OWN WRITTEN SOLUTIONS. Merely copying someone else's answer is not acceptable.

Participation

As mentioned above, I believe people learn more from doing something than from watching an instructor talk about it. To that end, many (most?) days will have class work – either worksheets (to do singly or in groups), or class discussions on the topics of the day. You are expected to be in class and participate in the day's activities. *This is part of your grade!* This means two things: if you skip class your grade will tend to suffer, but if you come to class and try hard, your grade will be better for it.

Exams

There will be two exams and a cumulative final, marked on the schedule, below. Note that the actual dates of the exams may vary slightly.

Quizzes

There are many Friday Quizzes. You will know ahead of time what problems could be on the quiz – that is on the homework sheet handout. Quizzes are open notes – but closed book, so if you do the quiz prep problems ahead of time you should get a very

good score, without much stress or worry. On the other hand, if you skip the quiz prep problems, you *might* know how to do the quiz problems – but you might not.

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Discussion Boards

There will be discussion boards set up for this course, via D2L.

There will be *two* discussion board areas:

1) Boards for homework problems are optional and can earn you extra credit. These boards will be available to every student in the section.

2) General discussion boards are optional and offer no grade benefit. They are set up to allow you to ask your professor questions, or to offer a place for discussions not about the material (e.g., organizing study sessions, complaints about the book, etc.). These boards will be available to every student in the section.

All boards will be monitored after the fact. That is, you will post directly to the board, and I will monitor periodically throughout the week. Certain standards apply to postings:

- Postings are never anonymous
- Postings must not contain inappropriate (foul, rude, hostile) language

Violation of these rules may constitute academic misconduct (see below).

Schedule (subject to modification):

Week Sections Tests, notes, etc.

1 9/5 to 9/8 5.1, 5.2 Quiz Friday

2 9/11 to 9/15 8.2, 8.3, 8.6 Quiz Friday

3 9/18 to 9/22 8.7, 6.6, 6.7 Quiz Friday

4 9/25 to 9/29 9.1, 9.2 Exam Tuesday

5 10/2 to 10/6 9.3, 9.4 Quiz Friday

6 10/9 to 10/13 9.5, 9.6, 10.1 Quiz Friday

7 10/16 to 10/20 10.2, 10.3 Exam Friday

8 10/23 to 10/27 14.3 to 14.5 Cumulative Final Friday

