MDEV 127 - Syllabus

Course: MDEV 127 – Intermediate Algebra
4 *credits* – 2 *hours* lecture and 2 *hours* laboratory per *week.*
Credit applicable to degree, but NOT towards any major or Dragon Core Mathematics requirements.
Pre-requisites: Elementary/Introductory Algebra (MSCTC Math 0090) or specified MnSCU Math Placement Score

Topics covered: Exponents, algebraic fractions, polynomials, functions, graphing lines, linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations (time permitting), radicals, linear inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities.

Textbook: Intermediate Algebra: Concepts and Graphs – 4th edition by McKeague (Saunders)

Course goals: The primary goal of MDEV 127 is to prepare you for success in college-level mathematics courses, as well as for other collegiate courses requiring mathematics. This includes mastering the required basic mathematical skills and developing successful study habits. Besides learning to read a mathematics text and learning to organize, solve and present solutions to problems you will need to develop self-discipline for studying mathematics every day. The nature of Mathematics is such that you must take it in small bits – avoid trying to cram several chapters at a time.

Class format: This course consists of 2 lecture sessions and 2 laboratory sessions each week. The text sections and reading/homework assignments for the lecture/lab portions of this course are given on the course schedule. You should pre-read the new sections before coming to the lecture. During the lecture your instructor will discuss key concepts related to the new material. Usually your instructor will reserve some time in order to answer a few questions related to the previous assignment. Then you should work the assigned problems before coming to lab on those sections. Active participation by students is encouraged as it strengthens comprehension. Use this time as an opportunity to develop your critical thinking skills. Students should expect to spend at least 12 *hours* per week (including class and laboratory time) working on topics from this course.

During laboratory sessions students can expect to be engaged in activities of the following type.

1. Group work and activities related to lecture topics. Students will be able to discuss topics from the lecture, obtain one-on-one assistance, and develop strategies appropriate for solving problems.

2. In order to develop reading, organizing, and writing skills some activities might require students to read about a topic and then solve and present well written solutions.

3. Hour exams (probably 4 each term) and short quizzes will be scheduled during laboratory sessions.

Attendance: In order to succeed in mathematics classes, experience indicates, that it is extremely important that students stay on schedule. Because we are interested in your success, this course carries the following attendance requirement.
"Any student that is absent from more than 5 of the regularly scheduled lectures or laboratory sessions (5 total) during the term will have his/her

overall percentage score lowered by 2 percentage points per each additional absence before final grades are assigned."

Note:

1) Missing a class to participate in an official university activity will not be counted as an absence provided you supply your instructor with proper written notification.

2) In some cases you might be able to attend an alternate lecture or laboratory session in order to avoid an absence. Check with your instructor.

3) After 5 absences, an excused absence will be granted only in extreme emergencies. Written, verifiable, and justifiable reasons will be required. Habitual Tardiness will result in absences.

4) It is expected that all exams will be taken when scheduled.

Grading: Your grade for this course will be determined by dividing your earned points by the total possible points in order to obtain a percentage. (If need be, this percentage will be adjusted based on the attendance policy.)
Course grades of ***A – B – C – D*** will correspond to percentages of ***90 – 80 - 70 – 60.***

Hour exam scores, the common final exam score, quiz scores, group and individual project scores and homework assignment scores will all contribute to the total possible number of points. (Late work, *if permitted,* will likely carry a penalty.)

Comments: The faculty and tutors of the Mathematics Learning Center are dedicated to providing you the opportunities for success in studying mathematics. It is up to you to make good use of these opportunities. Our goal is to help you prepare for studying college level mathematics by mastering basic mathematical skills, developing effective study habits and achieving the confidence level needed for success.

If you encounter difficulties, consult with your instructor *and/or* the Director of the Mathematics Learning Center as soon as possible. We will work with you to provide a resolution.

In addition to the MLC tutoring, the Department of Mathematics has a ***free*** tutoring room available for your usage. This room is located in MacLean 383 and is usually staffed with tutors during school hours Monday through Friday.

No food or drink in the classroom or laboratory.

It is always advisable to keep your textbook receipt. Also, you may not want to mark your textbooks. Keep them clean.

Academic Honesty: See MSUM Student Academic Honesty Policy, Student Handbook: http://www.mnstate.edu/sthandbook/ OR http://www.mnstate.edu/acadaff/Departments/policies/studentabsence.htm

See http://www.mnstate.edu/math/math_learning_center/index.html for drop-in tutoring hours and solutions to labs.

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