# Fall 2015 MDEV 090/090A – Elementary Algebra Syllabus

**Instructor:** Dr. Ellen Fagerstrom Office Monday 10:00-11:00, 1:00-3:00

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**Course:** MDEV 090/090A – Elementary Algebra

3 credits

MDEV 090A: 2 hours lecture, 3 hours lab

MDEV 090: 2 hours lecture, 2 hours lab

The credit is not applicable to any major, degree or general education requirement.

Pre-requisites for MDEV 090: Specified MnSCU Math Placement Score.

**Topics Covered:** The course introduces operations and evaluating expressions involving real numbers, exponents and radicals. Solving linear, absolute value and quadratic equations, and linear and compound inequalities is also studied. Emphasis is given to procedural skills to help develop the conceptual skills needed for application and interpretation of results including graphing and problem solving skills. Credits apply towards full-time status but do not apply towards graduation.

**Textbook**: Required: *(1) MyMathLab for Prealgebra, Beginning & Intermediate Algebra 1e--Access Card*

Optional: Hardcopy of text. *Reference for Trigsted/Bodden/Gallaher Prealgebra, Beginning & Intermediate Algebra 1e*

You will be provided with online access information at your first class meeting.

These materials, including MyMathLab access, are also used for other MDEV courses. NOTE: If you took an MDEV course in Spring 2015, you may not need to purchase new materials. Ask for assistance to transfer your MyMathLab registration.

**Materials Needed:** **Headphone**s are required to listen to the videos in the etext without disturbing others in the computer lab. An inexpensive pair of headphones will be sufficient. A **three ring binder** is beneficial to organize the Guided Notebook (printable document will be provided), homework, and other course material. **Calculators are not used frequently in the course. Calculators will be provided during labs and exams when permitted.** A basic calculator which includes the square root key is sufficient. **If a calculator is required for an exam, you must use the provided calculator. A scientific, graphing, or phone-based calculator may not be used during an exam.**

**Learning**

**Outcomes:** You will be able to:

1. Perform operations involving rational numbers, exponents, and polynomials.

2. Solve linear equations, including absolute value equations, and inequalities.

3. Solve systems of linear equations and inequalities.

4. Graph lines, derive equations of lines, and interpret application of graphs, equations and inequalities.

5. Factor polynomials.

6. Solve quadratic equations by factoring.

7. Apply knowledge to solving application problems and interpreting solutions.

**Course goals:** The primary goal of MDEV 090 is to prepare you for success in a college-level mathematics course, 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 two lecture sessions and three laboratory sessions each week. During the lectures your instructor will discuss key concepts related to the new material. Part of the labs will be print based where you may work in groups to complete an activity with one-to-one assistance from tutors and the course instructor. Other portions of the labs will entail working online where you will progress through assigned items.

Tasks include completing assigned readings from the etext before coming to the corresponding lecture, completing the corresponding items in the Guided Notebook and the online Reading Assessment. You are given one chance at each problem in the Reading Assessment. Online homework assignments will be completed and submitted online before the next lecture. You will get three tries at each problem and up to three different problems for each question on the homework for a total of nine tries. You must complete the homework by the due date. You are encouraged to strive to achieve 100% on all assignments.

You are encouraged to keep a notebook containing class notes and the steps to finding the solutions for the online homework. More information regarding helpful study skills and tips for organizational skills will be covered in class.

Written quizzes and exams will be administered throughout the semester.

You should expect to spend at least two hours per day (including class and laboratory time) working on topics from this course.

**Attendance:** In order to succeed in mathematics classes, experience indicates that it is extremely important that you attend all classes and stay on schedule.

1. Attendance is mandatory to receive credit for any graded work done on a given day. You may not make-up, submit late, or receive credit for any activity missed, including a written lab or quiz. It is expected that all exams will be taken when scheduled.  You may only make-up an exam for an excused absence which includes an absence due to illness (doctor’s note required) or a university activity.
2. Zeroes will be given for online assignments that are not submitted by their due date.
3. The lowest two grades from the written quizzes and written labs will be omitted from the final grade. The lowest five scores from online homework will be omitted from the final grade.
4. Please turn off cell phones during class and lab hours.
5. When working on the computers in the lab, access **only** the site for the textbook and homework activities.
6. Refrain from aside conversations (those not relevant to the class) once the class has started.
7. Repeated offenses to heed items 4 - 6 may result in you being asked to leave the room and/or a zero on the activity for the day.

**Grading:**

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| The lowest scores for the  specific course grades are:  A+ 98  A 91  A- 90  B+ 88  B 81  B- 80  C+ 78 | C 71  C- 70  D+ 68  D 61  D- 60  F less than 60 | Grades will be weighted as follows:  16% Online homework  6% Lab Worksheets  1% Guided Notebook  7% Quizzes and other activities  50% Unit Exams  20% Final Exam |

**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/orthe Director of the Mathematics Learning Center as soon as possible. We will work with you to provide a resolution.

Free tutoring is available through the MLC in room MA 278. The hours are posted by the door once tutoring starts for the semester. Hours are also posted online at [www.mnstate.edu/math/learningcenter/](http://www.mnstate.edu/math/learningcenter/). You may utilize the MLC as a place to study and complete your homework, as well as, a resource to answer your questions and provide assistance.

**Return of Work:** The Electronic Homework assignments are graded immediately by the computer.  The in-class lab assignments and the exams will in general be returned to you the next class day.  If you are not in class, graded work will not be given to friends, roommates, or spouses, nor will grade information be given out on the phone or via email.  (These restrictions are not arbitrary - they are based on federal law regarding student privacy.)  Normally, any old assignments are returned with any current ones.  In any case, they will be brought to class, and you can ask for them at the end of class.

**Academic Honesty:** See MSUM Academic Honesty Policy:

<http://www.mnstate.edu/policies/academichonesty.aspx>

Disability Services: Minnesota State University Moorhead is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

* + - * If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory or physical) please contact the DRC at (218) 477-4318 (V) or (800)627.3529 (MRS/TTY) to schedule an appointment for an intake.
      * Additional information is available on the DRC website: http://www.mnstate.edu/disability/
      * If you are registered with the DRC and have a current Accommodation Letter, please schedule an appointment to visit with me, during my office hours, to discuss implementation of your accommodations.