

Math 137 ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS – Spring 2014

<u>MAT</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>Intermediate Algebra – Online w/Campus Requirement</u>
Department	Course No.	Course Title
<u>3</u>		
Credit Hrs.		
<u>Justice Baker</u>		<u>1/14/2014</u>
Faculty Member		Date
Course prerequisites:	<u><i>Reading exempt and eligible for ENG*063 and MAT*095 with a grade of "C" or better OR reading exempt and eligible for ENG*063 and math placement.</i></u>	

Scope of course:

MAT*137 is a continuation of MAT*095. Topics include factoring; rational functions, expressions and equations; radical functions, expressions and equations; an introduction to complex numbers; and quadratic functions and equations. There will be an emphasis on modeling and applications for all topics.

Textbooks and other required readings/computer software/materials/library reserve room:

- **Introductory and Intermediate Algebra 3rd Edition - Custom, by Robert Blitzer, Pearson Education, Inc., 2009.**
(You may use the ebook that is available on MyMathLab if you do not choose to purchase the textbook)
- **Online Material: MyMathLab - This provides access to lot of study resources along with homework exercises and is called MyLab/Mastering or MyMathLab (MML). It requires an Access Code to register (needs to be purchased). You can access MyMathLab through the tab in the course menu on Blackboard Learn.**
- **Scientific Calculator recommended, or a graphing calculator (TI-83 Plus or TI-84) if going on in math beyond MAT*137**

Office Location:	Wheaton Hall Room 310	Office Hours:	T, TH:1:00 – 2:30 pm or by appointment
Office e-mail:	jbaker@mxcc.edu or through Messages in Blackboard Learn		

General Expectations: Intermediate Algebra can be a very challenging course when taken in a traditional classroom. Taking the course online can make it that much more difficult to stay on top of the material. It is crucial that you are doing work several times each week during this semester to be successful. Please do not wait until the weekend that the assignments are due to complete them. If we were to meet in a classroom, you would be spending about 3 hours in class, and a minimum of another 4-5 hours outside of class doing work. Please keep that in mind to give yourself a guideline as to how many hours you will need to dedicate to this course.

Course Details:

Weekly Modules: Each week, a new weekly module will become available. These modules will contain:

- Objectives for the week
- Instructions/videos from me
- Details about the week's assignments
- Links to MyMathLab

You should go through the content in each module from top to bottom early on in the week. Modules will become available each Sunday at 12:00 am starting on Sunday, January 19th.

Homework: Each week you will be assigned a homework assignment that you are to complete using My Lab Mastering/MyMathLab. You can get to our course in MyMathLab by going to the MyMathLab tab in the Course Menu in Blackboard Learn or by following the links in the weekly modules.

With your textbook, you should have purchased a MyMathLab Access Kit. In that kit is an access code that you will need in order to register at My Lab/Mastering. You can also purchase an access code directly from the website with a credit card. You should set up your account in MyMathLab and link it to Blackboard Learn by clicking on any of the links in the MyMathLab tab as soon as possible.

You can work on the homework as many times as you like before the due date. You will get three attempts at each question before MyMathLab marks that question incorrect. When that happens, you may choose “Similar Problem” and you will be given a new problem to try. Check out the help features that are available to you during homework assignments. These can include step-by-step instructions (Help Me Solve This...), completed examples to review, and videos. Be sure to use these features to help you with the material on the assignments.

All homework assignments will become available at midnight on Sunday at the start of a week and are due the next Sunday by 11:59pm. For example, HW #1 will become available at midnight on Sunday, January 19th and is due by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 26th. It is the expectation that you work on the material during the week/weekend, complete the homework by the end of the week and then move on to the next week’s material.

Before attempting MyMathLab homework, you will want to go through the weekly module in Blackboard Learn, read the assigned sections from text and try the recommended problems at the end of each section (given in each weekly module). There are answers to the odd exercises in the back of the text so that you can check your work before completing your MyMathLab homework.

Because this class is online and you are doing the work independently, it is critical that you stay on top of the material. Please make sure you are submitting on time!

NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED

NOTE: MyMathLab has many great features to help with the material. Once you are registered and logged onto MyMathLab, be sure to look at the task bar on the left to see what else it has to offer. There are chapter notes, additional exercises, power point slides, videos with an instructor working through problems, and sample tests/quizzes. Also, MyMathLab offers a Study Plan to show you the areas you need to work on. Every time you complete an assignment, the study plan is updated and you can go in and try more examples from that material. Please check this stuff out so you know where to go if you start having difficulty with the material.

Quizzes/Tests: Your quizzes, and tests are also taken in MyMathLab. Both are timed, so you will have to complete them in one sitting. Once you open the quiz/exam, the timer will start.

The reason tests are timed is to make sure that everyone has been fully prepared and mastered the material BEFORE taking the test. If you find that you are running out of time on these assessments, it is most likely because you have not practiced enough. If you are spending a good deal of time looking through your book/notes while you are taking a test, you will almost definitely run out of time.

A short description of each exam, including amount of time you have to complete will be in your weekly module in Blackboard Learn. All tests/quizzes must be completed by midnight on the due date. See the weekly modules in Blackboard Learn for specific dates.

Each week you will have at least a quiz, test, or discussion due, as well as your weekly homework in MyMathLab. The expectation is that you are working on the homework all week and you take the test once you have completed that and feel comfortable with the material. Tests/Quizzes will be available the Sunday before the due date (just like the homework assignments).

You will be able to view your test grades as soon as you have submitted your answers, but you can only review your answers once the due date has passed.

NO LATE EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

NOTE: MyMathLab will give partial credit if you get one part of a question correct but not another part. However, since it is a computer grading these tests/quizzes, it will not award you partial credit if you have an answer wrong due to rounding, notation or some other very minor error. Once each due date passes, please review your test/quiz in MyMathLab. You can email me (using the Messages tool in the Course Menu) if you that feel there are some questions that you deserve partial credit on, along with your work. I can adjust the grade manually if I find you deserve more credit than you were given.

Final Exam: You will be required take your final exam ON CAMPUS during one of two provided times. The format of the exam will be exactly the same as every other exam, and taken on MyMathLab. The two options for times will be provided to you during the first month of class so that you can plan ahead.

YOU MUST EARN AT LEAST A 60% ON THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE. Failure to earn this grade will result in an F in the course, regardless of your calculated average.

Discussions: You will have weekly discussions throughout semester, the first one being due by 11:59 on Sunday, January 26th. Details for the discussions can be found in the weekly modules. Some of these discussions will be open ended questions like “Tell the class one thing that you are having difficulty with this week”, and some will be problems that relate to the material we are covering. Many discussions will require you to complete an initial post and then also reply to another student’s post. For some discussions you will be able to read other responses, and some you will be replying directly to me. These discussions are graded and must be completed by the due dates indicated in the weekly modules. The actual discussions can be accessed through the Discussions tab in the course menu in Blackboard Learn (NOT MyMathLab).

NO LATE DISCUSSION POSTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Online Behavior Guidelines:

As with an on-ground class, there are certain expectations about how you behave in an online course. At all times, you must be respectful of the other students in the class and the instructor. In an online format, where most interactions between individuals are in writing, it is very easy to be misunderstood. Therefore, please abide by these guidelines when communicating with others (in messages or discussion forums):

- Keep all messages positive and constructive
- Do not post comments/discussions in all caps (it can come off as if you’re shouting)
- Name calling of any kind will not be tolerated

A good rule of thumb to remember is: if it isn’t appropriate to say in a class, you shouldn’t write it online.

College Policies:

Math Placement Tests: The purpose of the Math Placement Exam is to assess a student’s background and place him/her in an appropriate level of mathematics so as to increase the likelihood of a student’s success. If a student believes that he/she has been misplaced in a math class, the student is responsible for speaking with his/her math teacher during the first week of class. If, after reassessing the placement, the math teacher believes that the student should be reassigned to another math class, the student must complete the course change process before the second week of class.

Class Cancellation: In the event of inclement weather either before the start of a day when classes are in session or during the school day, you may check for information on delayed openings, college closings, class cancellations, etc by listening to the radio and television stations listed below. Additionally, a message will be posted on the MxCC website at www.mxcc.edu and an announcement made on the college’s main phone number, (860) 343-5800. (When calling the main phone number, be sure to choose option 1 from the menu for school closings.) If classes are already in session, everyone on campus will be notified of any changes. Decisions to cancel classes or close the college early will be made as soon as practicable.

Religious Accommodation Statement: If your religious obligations conflict with the course calendar requirements, and if you wish to request an accommodation, you must make your request in writing prior to the date of the assessment or activity you will miss and preferably at the beginning of the semester. When requesting a make-up quiz, test, exam, assignment, or activity, state the reason for your request and the date(s) on which your religious obligation(s) will conflict with the course calendar requirements. Also, if your religious obligation/holiday is unfamiliar to your instructor, you may be asked to provide a calendar which shows the published date(s) of your religious observance(s) or holiday(s).

ADA Accommodations: Students with physical or learning disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the Counseling Office. After disclosing the nature of the disability, students are urged to discuss their needs with individual instructors. This should be done at the beginning of each semester. Instructors, in conjunction with appropriate college officials, will provide assistance and/or accommodations only to those students who have completed this process.

Academic ethics and classroom behavior: At Middlesex Community College we expect the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustees' Proscribed Conduct Policy in Section 5.2.1 of the Board of Trustees' Policy Manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration on assignments, unauthorized access to examinations or course materials, plagiarism, and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that/those idea(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally.

Withdrawal: You may withdraw from the class any time before the end of the 11th week of the semester (**before April 15, 2014**). A completed and signed withdrawal form must be on the file in the Records Office by the deadline in order to receive a "W" on your transcript. If you fail to complete this process on time, you will receive a letter grade at the end of the semester, which will include zeroes for any work not submitted. Course withdrawals may affect financial aid and veteran's benefits. Please make this decision carefully and with the help of your advisor. See the Academic Calendar and the College Catalog for specific dates and procedures regarding the withdrawal process.

Student Email Accounts: All Connecticut Community College students now have an official email address (prefix@mail.ct.edu) to which all college-based communications will be sent. The "prefix" is the first letter of your first name, followed by first 4 letters of your last name, followed by a 4-digit number (e.g., jsmit1234@mail.ct.edu for John Smith). If your last name contains fewer than four characters; the "prefix" will include all letters of your last name (e.g., jdoe1234@mail.ct.edu for John Doe). You access Office 365 at <http://portal.microsoftonline.com> and log in with your CCC NetID username and password. For more details, please see <http://www.ct.edu/365#faq>.

Additional Academic Policies: Please refer to the official college catalog for all other academic policies.

Evaluation

Your letter grade is based on your "grade on 100" as follows:

A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=0-59

Your overall average will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Homework Average:	15%
Quiz Average:	10%
Discussions:	10%
Tests (3 total):	15% each
Final Exam (Cumulative):	20%

NOTE: You need a C or better to move on to a math course with a MAT*137 prerequisite.

YOU MUST EARN AT LEAST A 60% ON THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.
Failure to earn this grade will result in an F in the course, regardless of your calculated average.

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the above syllabus as necessary.

Unit I: Factoring Polynomials

- Factor polynomials by factoring out the greatest common factor, by grouping, and by trial and error
- Factor the difference of two perfect squares and the difference and sum of two perfect cubes
- Factor using a general strategy
- Solve Quadratic equations by factoring.

Unit II: Rational expressions and equations including modeling and applications

- Simplify, add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational expressions
- Solve rational equations
- Apply mathematical modeling to solve problems

Unit III: Radical expressions, equations, and introduction to complex numbers including modeling and applications

- Simplify, add, subtract, multiply, and divide radical expressions
- Use complex numbers to simplify negative radicands
- Solve radical equations
- Apply mathematical modeling to solve problems

Unit IV: Quadratic and Power functions, relations, and graphs including modeling and applications

- Solve quadratic equations using factoring, the square root property, and the quadratic formula
- Graph quadratic and power functions
- Apply mathematical modeling to solve problems