

Northern Michigan University

Department of Mathematics/Computer Science

Syllabus

MA100 Intermediate Algebra Syllabus

Winter 2009 Section 02

latest update: 12 January 2009

URL for course info: <http://Ellerbruch.nmu.edu/classes/MA100w09/MA100.html>

Seq #: 10618 1:00 - 1:50 pm M W Th F Room NS 2911

Prerequisite: C- in MA 090 or equivalent

Instructor Information:

Instructor: L. W. Ellerbruch

Office: NSF 1109

Telephone: 227-1597

Office Hours: As posted by office door but will include:

10:00 - 11:50 am M W Th

11:00 - 11:50 am F

2:00 - 2:50 pm M

Other hours by arrangement.

Text:

Hirsch, L. and A. Goodman, *Understanding Intermediate Algebra, fifth edition*, Brooks/Cole, Pacific Grove, California: 2002.

[MA100 Course Description](#)

Basic Philosophy and content for the course:

The course will be built around the rule of "four"; as much as possible, every topic should be presented concretely (geometrically/visually/hands-on), numerically, abstractly (algebraically) and have an emphasis on communication. In-class work, homework, exams and quizzes will

utilize all four components as much as is reasonably possible. Communication is important and individuals are encouraged to talk about mathematics with other members of the class AND other students. Cheating is defined as turning in someone else's work as your own. It is not cheating to work with others. Sharing the learning and teaching is an important part of this course.

Technology is an important component of classroom instruction and learning. Students will use calculators and computers. The internet will be used as much as possible.

MA100 will cover selected material from Appendix A and Chapters 1 - 8. Selected topics from chapters 9 - 11 will be included as time permits.

Calculators and Technology:

The laptop is to be used appropriately in the class.

Turn off cell phones. They are not to be used during class.

A complete and up-to-date syllabus, list of assigned text exercises, list of any other assignments, and other information related directly to the class will be available from a WWW page on the instructor's WWW server.

Some aspects of the visual (geometric/graphical/concrete) component of the course will be designed around the Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-86 graphing capabilities, computer software, or the WWW. The numerical component of the course will be designed around the TI-83's or TI-86's computation and programming capabilities, or computer programs which allow for in-class demonstrations.

A FREE TI-83 emulator (TI Interactive) is available for the laptop. This is the minimum calculator for the course. If you have access to a handheld graphing calculator, use it for the class. It will be useful for homework, in-class exercises, quizzes and exams. You are responsible for learning how to use your specific calculator, although the TI-83 emulator or another TI will be demonstrated in class.

There may be exams and quizzes where the laptop may not be used or even open during the exam.

Assignments:

In-class exercises and out-of-class exercises will be assigned on a regular basis. It is expected that students will complete all assigned exercises. Some homework sets may be collected. Some homework exercises may be marked. Some homework exercises may be used as quiz items.

Reading assignments will be made, and it is very important to complete them.

There will be in-class discussion and group work. Participation is expected.

You are responsible for the appropriate material in the text even if it is not covered during class time. You will be tested on material from the class, from the text, and from other sources.

Students will be responsible for instructional material placed on the WWW for them, or assigned to them.

Attendance:

Attendance is required. Major exams may be made up only if the absence is excused prior to the absence. Daily work or quizzes may not be made up!

If a student has perfect attendance the recorded grade for that student will be raised one step on the grading scale from the computed grade, *i.e.* if the computed grade is a "C+" it will be raised to a "B-" for recording. Perfect attendance means actually attending every scheduled class session. "Excused" absence is not attendance. Allowance will be made for classes officially cancelled.

Grading:

Exams

There will be six "hourly" exams and a "final" exam. Three hourly exams will be given on alternate Fridays before mid-semester break and three will be given on alternate Fridays after the break. The primary (but not total) focus for each "hourly" exam will be the material covered since the last hourly exam.

The tentative dates for "hourly" exams are:

1. 23 January
2. 6 February
3. 20 February
4. 20 March
5. 3 April
6. 17 April

Quizzes

Quizzes will usually be unannounced and will usually be of very short duration. There may be a quiz any day. Likely material for the quizzes will include short answer or essay questions, homework problems, or material emphasized in class. Quiz scores will NOT be a part of the final grade computation.

Points

Points are cumulative for all class activities. There will be about:

points	category
400 - 700	hourly exams
200	Final Exam

Letter Grades

The following is the guaranteed scale for **final** grades.

GRADING SCALE

% score	GRADE
93 -	A
90 - 92.99	A-
87 - 89.99	B+
83 - 86.99	B
80 - 82.99	B-
77 - 79.99	C+
73 - 76.99	C
70 - 72.99	C-
67 - 69.99	D+
63 - 66.99	D
60 - 62.99	D-
0 - 59.99	F

However, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the curve downward slightly to allow for

better breaks between letter grades. He also reserves the right to discard one or more quiz grades for every student from the percent calculation, but this is not a guarantee. There may be some opportunity for bonus points.

Final

The final exam time will be used and all students will be required to take it. The final time will be the scheduled time (from 12:00 to 1:50 pm Wednesday 29 April 2009 unless there is a change or correction in the university schedule) in WS 1705.

NOTES:

All material in the course is cumulative and once covered in class, or assigned, may be used on any test or quiz.

ADA Statement

If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office by: coming into the office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock; calling 227-1700; or e-mailing disserv@nmu.edu. Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.
