

Math 108 Syllabus (section 720, summer 2001)

Dr. Holmes

June 7, 2001

1 Information and Policies

Instructor: M. Randall Holmes.

Office number: MG240A (main campus)

Office telephone: 426-3011.

Office hours: to be discussed: currently I plan to come to the CC campus at 5:30 pm each day.

Home telephone: 345-2899 (please do not use after 8:30 pm or between 6 pm Friday and noon Sunday).

Internet: E-mail holmes@math.boisestate.edu

Web page <http://math.boisestate.edu/~holmes>

This syllabus and other course information will be accessible from my web page.

Title of Course: Math 108: Intermediate Algebra.

Schedule: TTh 6-9 pm

Final exam dates and times: The final exam will be given on the last day of class, August 2. There will be an hour for review before the final is given.

Old copies of the Math 108 common final are available in PDF format on the Web at the BSU Math Department web site (<http://math.boisestate.edu>)

and provide a nice source of problems. Please be aware when studying that I will not model my final on these exams. My exam will be shorter and I will expect a higher class average.

Textbook: *Intermediate Algebra: Graphs and Functions* (second edition), Larson, Hostetler, and Neptune. This is the same book used in earlier years, and there should be used copies in the bookstore.

Prerequisites: Math 025 with C or better, or satisfactory score on the placement exam. Placement exams are given in the education building on the main campus; I gather that they are also given on the CC campus but I don't know the details.

Learning Objectives: A student who has taken Math 108 should have a mastery of algebra equivalent to that of a high school student who has completed two years of algebra. A student who has taken Math 108 should be ready to take Math 147, Precalculus, or Math 160, Business Calculus.

Calculators: A graphing calculator might sometimes be useful in the class. It is not required that you have one. In exams, you will be permitted to use only a standard scientific calculator without graphing or symbolic computation capability; make sure that you have one.

Getting into the Class: I will make no exceptions to policies regarding prerequisites or the capacity of the room.

Attendance: Attendance will not be formally taken, except possibly on the first day or two when I am allowed to administratively withdraw students who do not show up. The expectation is that you show up every day. Each day of instruction in this class corresponds to about four days of instruction in the regular semester! I may occasionally give in-class quizzes: there will be no provision for make-ups on such quizzes.

Homework: Homework will be assigned every day, and will be due the next Tuesday. A schedule of homework will be distributed.

Exams: There will be three hour exams and a final exam in this course. The hour exams will actually take an hour and a half: the second half

of the period on exam days will be taken by the exam. The first half of an exam day will be regular instructional time (not just review!)

The final exam will be cumulative but of course with an emphasis on material covered since the third hour exam.

Late Work and Makeups: Makeups for exams will be possible, and should if possible be arranged in advance of your absence (the make-up exam itself will usually be given after the rest of the class takes the exam, but I want to know if anyone will be absent beforehand). On late homework I do not admit having any consistent policy at all: if you hand in your homework late you may get graded normally, graded with a penalty, or receive a minimal grade merely for handing it in, at my entire discretion. There will be no make-ups for quizzes, as noted above.

Computation of Grades: Exams will usually be scaled linearly so that the median class grade is 75%, then graded with 90's = A, 80's = B, 70's = C, 60's = D, etc. I may change the scaling if I am displeased with the class performance (though this seldom happens); I will never scale grades downward.

Your total homework grade has the same weight as an hour exam; your final exam will have the weight of two hour exams. Your lowest hour exam grade (or your homework grade if it is lowest) may be replaced by your grade on the final exam if this helps you. Your course grade will be the sum of your hour exam grades and your homework grade (the lowest of these four grades being replaced by the final exam grade if this helps) plus twice the final exam grade, divided by six.

Each homework assignment will be marked in the following way: you get 30% for handing it in, then you get a percentage of the remaining 70% determined by your performance on the assignment. I (or a grader) will mark 3-5 randomly selected problems from each assignment; you can always request that I look at your solutions to other problems. Your homework grade will not be scaled or adjusted in any other way. It is seldom the case that a student's lowest grade is his homework grade, if they do their homework regularly.

Open Office Policy: I will be in the office on the main campus most of the usual working day, and will generally be willing to talk to students if

they show up there. You can make appointments to see me there. I plan to show up at 5:30 pm each day at the CC campus.

I encourage students to correspond with me by e-mail.

Academic Honesty: Collaboration on homework is expected and even encouraged in this class. This does not mean *copying* of homework. Collaboration on exams is of course not allowed. The penalty for cheating (defined as looking at another student's paper or unauthorized use of books or notes during an exam) will be a grade of zero (0) on the relevant exam. A repeat offense will mean an F in the course.

Definitions: The word "yesterday" is defined to mean the previous class session; the word "tomorrow" is defined to mean the next class session, unless I specifically say otherwise :-)

2 Schedule of Sections Covered (with Exam Dates)

This is of course subject to change. This document is the framework for the homework schedule: updated versions will appear as the semester goes on.

Note that an assignment is due the next Tuesday that we meet: for example, the material shown for sections 2.1–3 on Tuesday, June 12 and the material shown for sections 2.4–6 on Thursday, June 14 is all due on Tuesday, June 19. Some assignments (word problems, for example) may have the due date extended to the following Thursday.

It is a good idea to review chapter 1 (which covers topics you should be familiar with from high school or from Math 025), and see if you have any problems in these areas.

Tuesday, June 12: 2.1–2.3.

Thursday, June 14: 2.4–2.6

Tuesday, June 19: 3.1, 3.3, 3.4.

Thursday, June 21: 3.5; Test 1, 7:30–9 pm.

Tuesday, June 26: 3.6, 4.1, 5.1

Thursday, June 28: 5.2–5.4

Tuesday, July 3: 5.5, 5.6, 6.1

Thursday, July 5: 6.2; Test 2, 7:30–9 pm.

Tuesday, July 10: 6.3–6.5

Thursday, July 12: 7.1–7.3

Tuesday, July 17: 7.4, 7.5, 9.1

Thursday, July 19: 9.2; Test 3, 7:30–9 pm.

Tuesday, July 24: 9.3–9.5

Thursday, July 26: 8.1–8.3

Tuesday, July 31: 8.4, 8.5, review

Thursday, August 2: Review, 6–7 pm. Final exam 7–9 pm.