



# SOUTHWESTERN

AN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

<b>Course Title and Number:</b> MTH 95, Intermediate Algebra		<b>Instructor:</b> Benjamin Holt
<b>Year and Term:</b> Winter 2025	<b>Course Credits:</b> 4	<b>Office Location:</b> Sitkum 2C
<b>Office Phone:</b> 541-888-7608	<b>Student Hours:</b> M: 10 am – 10:50 am T: 10 am – 10:50 am W: 9 am – 10:50 am R: 10 am – 10:50 am	<b>Class Location:</b> Sitkum 4
<b>Meeting Time/Days:</b> TR 8:00 am – 9:50 am		<b>Email Address:</b> <a href="mailto:benjamin.holt@socc.edu">benjamin.holt@socc.edu</a> (PLEASE use Canvas or your socc.edu account! I will not reply to emails from any other place.)
<b>Web Page Address:</b> <a href="https://holt.blue/MTH_95/homepage.html">https://holt.blue/MTH_95/homepage.html</a>		<b>Fax Number:</b>

<b>Course Description</b> <i>(as it appears in the approved College Course Outline)</i>	Prerequisite(s): MTH 65. A study of the concepts and principles considered in intermediate algebra. Topics include: Radical expressions and equations, complex numbers, quadratic equations, quadratic functions and their graphs, conic sections; absolute value equations and inequalities; absolute value functions and their graphs.
<b>Course Objectives Reflecting Expected Student Learning Outcomes</b>	Upon completion of the course the learner will: 1) Classify polynomials and find proper factorizations. 2) Evaluate, simplify and solve radical expressions or equations including complex numbers 3) Solve quadratic equations using different techniques (factoring, square root property, completing the square and the Quadratic Formula) 4) Simplify and solve rational expressions or equations.
<b>Grading</b>	<b>In-Class Participation:</b>  <u>The Approximate Daily Structure of this Course:</u> Students must come PREPARED. By prepared I mean that each student must expect to 1) engage with the material as it's presented in class 2) work with others and present problems in class.  <u>Lecture (Expository Mode):</u> ~15-25 minutes. Each class time, we will cover one or two topics. Some of that time we will operate in expository mode. That is, I will present a brief, concise lecture which outlines the material in a given section.  <u>Group Work Session (Active Mode):</u> ~15-25 minutes. The remaining class time will be in active mode. That is, you will be solving and presenting problem solutions with your peers. We will separate into random groups of about 3 or 4 people. Each group will have a worksheet with a random selection of problems similar to the textbook and online homework. I will individually help each group solve the problems on their worksheets.



**Problem Presentation (Active Mode):** ~10-20 minutes. Each group will choose a representative to present one problem at the board and we will do this for as many problems on the day's worksheet as we possibly can. If your group can't decide on a representative, I will choose a random member of the group to present.

**Online Homework and Practice:** For every section in the textbook listed in the syllabus course schedule (last page of this syllabus), there is a homework assignment. Every homework assignment will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions drawn randomly from a test bank of problems. To pass an assignment, you must get a grade of at least 70%. You may attempt the assignment as many times as you like. Each homework assignment is completed online where you will earn a pass code. You may earn pass codes directly in Canvas, or you may go to

[https://holt.blue/MTH\\_95/homework.html](https://holt.blue/MTH_95/homework.html)

and follow the instructions for completing and submitting homework. When you earn a pass code, you will upload it into Canvas.

Each pass code submitted on time will receive the full 20 points regardless of the score. This is to honor the time you put into the homework. Your homework grade is your pass code average.

Due dates for pass codes are given in course schedule on the last page of this syllabus.

**Online homework pass codes uploaded late will receive half credit.**

After verifying the pass code, I will then update Canvas.  
Please note that:

- 1) Images or screenshots of pass codes are NOT accepted.
- 2) You are advised to keep a file containing all your pass codes in case of any possible mishaps. For example, if a student uploads a pass code for the wrong assignment.
- 3) Pass codes from previous terms are not considered valid and will not be accepted for the present term.

**Exams:** There will be two exams (a Midterm and a Final) over the course of the term covering material up to each exam. Every exam will consist of 20 questions drawn randomly from a multiple-choice test question bank which consists of problems taken from the homework. Each exam is worth 30% percent of the course grade.



For both exams, there are optional extra credit practice exam assignments in Canvas which will give you a very good idea of what could show up on an exam. As you will see from using the above resource, none of the exams will be cumulative.

**Calculators & Technology:** For the exam you may use the TI 30XIIS calculator. If there is another calculator that you would like to use, you need to get permission with me beforehand. You MAY NOT use any online resources during the exam. Also, you MAY NOT share calculators during exams.

Finally, please be aware that headphones and earbuds ARE NOT ALLOWED during exams.

**Handwritten Notes:** For the exam you may use your handwritten notes. You MAY NOT use any online resources during the exam.

**Students who need reasonable accommodation should contact the instructor or call Disability Services for Students at 541-888-7405.**

**Policies on Missed Exams and Late Work:**

Late homework pass codes can be made up for half credit any time before the last day of the term (listed in myLakerLink).

Participation points cannot be made up.

If you miss the midterm exam, you will need to make arrangements with me in person to make it up. Missed Midterms will receive a penalty of 20% off the top of whatever score is received and must be made up **BEFORE** finals week.

Also, please be aware that travel arrangements made in advance of exam dates are NOT considered circumstances beyond your control.

The Final Exam cannot be made up. A missed final will result in a grade of 0% for the assignment.

No graded items will be accepted after the last day of the course listed in myLakerLink.



	<p><b>Grading Scale and Standards:</b> Your course grade is determined by the following items and their associated weights:</p> <table><tr><td><b>Homework</b> Each assignment grade is out of 20 points</td><td><b>20%</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>In-Class Participation</b> Each session is graded is out of 20 points</td><td><b>20%</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Midterm Exam</b> (Chapters 6 &amp; 7)</td><td><b>30%</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Final Exam</b> (Chapters 8 &amp; 9)</td><td><b>30%</b></td></tr></table> <p>The letter grade equivalents to the above course grade are: 90≤Course Grade&lt;100 <b>A</b> 80≤Course Grade&lt;90 <b>B</b> 70≤Course Grade&lt;80 <b>C</b> 60≤Course Grade&lt;70 <b>D</b> Course Grade&lt;60 <b>F</b></p> <p><b>Disclaimer Regarding Changes:</b> The policies outlined in this syllabus are subject to change with prior notice.</p> <p><b>Please Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. No graded items will be accepted past the deadline 11:59 pm on the day of the final exam.</li><li>2. Your final course grade will NOT be rounded up no matter how close it is to the next letter grade. Ample opportunity is provided during the term to earn the grade you want and it is your job to make sure your grade lands where you want it. <b>I will not respond to emails asking me to round grades up.</b></li><li>Pass codes from previous terms are NOT considered valid and will not be accepted for the present term.</li></ul> <p><i>Attendance</i> For institutional purposes, attendance will be taken.</p>	<b>Homework</b> Each assignment grade is out of 20 points	<b>20%</b>	<b>In-Class Participation</b> Each session is graded is out of 20 points	<b>20%</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b> (Chapters 6 & 7)	<b>30%</b>	<b>Final Exam</b> (Chapters 8 & 9)	<b>30%</b>
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<b>Text(s)</b>	<p><b>Optional Text:</b> Open Stax Intermediate Algebra, by Lynn Marecek. The electronic version (ISBN 978-1-947172-26-5) is freely available on the course website, and printed copies (ISBN 978-0-9986257-2-0) are available in the campus bookstore for purchase.</p>								
<b>Term Calendar</b> <i>(The instructor reserves the right to alter dates of presentations and exams/projects.)</i>	<p>Please see the last page of this syllabus.</p>								
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<p>MTH 65 is a prerequisite for this course. If you did not pass MTH 65 with a "C" or higher, you may be administratively withdrawn from this course within the refund period. This withdrawal could affect your financial aid and/</p>								



	or academic standing. If you are uncertain about whether you have passed MTH 65 with a "C" or higher, check MyLakerLink or with your advisor within the first week of class to ensure you have met the course prerequisites.
<b>Availability of Tutoring, Learning Lab, Academic Support</b>	In addition to office hours I highly recommend that you visit the tutoring center on the 3rd floor of the Tioga building. There are tutors there waiting to help you! Also, tutoring services are FREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!!



## Policies and Guidelines

Components marked with asterisk (\*) are required for every syllabus.

### **\* Course Hours**

Southwestern's Credit Hour Administrative Policy (APP 8191) stipulates that credit-bearing courses, regardless of delivery method, are scheduled and conducted in compliance with the definition of the credit hour as set forth in Section 600.2 and 600.24 of the Code of Federal Regulations and the NWCCU Policy on Credit Hour.

For this reason, students are expected to complete a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work per credit hour each week for the quarter.

### **\* Children in the Classroom**

Children represent a disruptive element for the classroom. They also increase the risk of accidents occurring in the laboratory. For those reasons, children should not be brought to either the classroom or the laboratory.

### **\* Academic Honesty: Plagiarism And Cheating**

Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic dishonesty are regarded as serious offenses. Instructors have the responsibility to submit, in a written report to the Dean of Students any such incident that cannot be resolved between the instructor and student. The policy of the Board of Education of Southwestern Oregon Community College on Student Rights, Student Code of Conduct, and Student Grievance Procedure outlines penalties ranging from admonition to expulsion from the class or college. In the policy, academic plagiarism is defined as: "The intentional submission for evaluation to a college instructor or administrator of material based, in significant part, on work done by someone other than the submitter without reasonable written indication to the evaluator of the material's true source." Academic cheating is defined as "The intentional submission for evaluation to a college instructor or administrator of material based, in part, on a source or sources forbidden by generally accepted standards or by regulation established by the evaluator and disclosed in a reasonable manner." The complete policy, student rights and responsibilities, penalties, and recourse through the Grievance Procedure can be found in the Student Handbook (<http://www.socc.edu/studentlife/pgs/bm~doc/socc-hb.pdf>).

### **\* Academic Ethics and Confidentiality**

It is the responsibility of everyone engaged in the learning experience to respect the rights and feelings of their fellow learners. Information gathered in the classroom and from on-line discussions and exercises is to be considered confidential. At the same time, students must recognize that the instructor and the College cannot guarantee the confidentiality of what the student may choose to disclose. Students must use their own discretion when engaging in classroom discussion.

### **\* Classroom Behavior**

Instructors have the responsibility to set and maintain standards of classroom behavior appropriate to the discipline and method of teaching. Students may not engage in any activity which the instructor deems disruptive or counterproductive to the goals of the class. Students are required to keep cell phones, beepers, and pagers off during class lectures, unless there is permission in advance from the instructor. Instructors have the right to remove offending students from class. Repetition of the offense may result in expulsion from the course.

### **\* Student Conduct**

Opt #1: Students must read and be familiar with the Code of Conduct as published in the Student Handbook, policies and procedures as outlined in campus publications, Southwestern Oregon policies.

Opt. #2: Students in this (or any) program of study should be especially aware of the severe consequences of plagiarism. Students that submit work that is not their own will be dealt with quickly and severely. It will be the recommendation of the faculty to remove such students from the College.

Opt. #3: Students that have a concern regarding any inappropriate conduct should bring it to the attention of their instructor, advisor, or Department Chair immediately. Inappropriate conduct situations will be reviewed immediately.

Opt. #4: Students taking this course should be aware of the potential diversity of the artistic perception of the



participants - particularly as applicable to violence, artistic statements, and nudity. Please keep your material and remarks professional and appropriate and be sensitive to individuals that have views different than your own.

**\*Americans with Disability Act – Disability Accommodation Statement**

SWOCC recognizes the contribution that a diverse student body brings to the educational experience. If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, please contact the Accessible Education Office. If you are a student who already has approved accommodations, you are required to talk with your instructors sometime during the first two weeks of the term regarding the accommodations you intend to use in their course.

The Accessible Education Office is located on the Southwestern Coos Bay campus in Student Support Services, Stensland Hall. For more information:

1. Visit Accessible Education Services or
2. Call (541) 888-1578 or
3. Email [accessibility@socc.edu](mailto:accessibility@socc.edu)

**\*Basic Needs Statement**

Our college is dedicated to ensuring every student's academic success and well-being. If you face challenges like food insecurity or housing instability, contact our Benefits Navigator for confidential assistance and community referrals. We aim to create a supportive environment where all students thrive.

541-888-7462 or [benefitsnavigator@socc.edu](mailto:benefitsnavigator@socc.edu)



**\*Notice of Non-Discrimination**

Students, their families, employees and potential employees of the Southwestern Oregon Community College District are hereby notified that Southwestern Oregon Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, national origin, age, disability status, gender identity, or protected veterans in employment, education, or activities as set forth in compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations. Any persons having inquiries concerning Southwestern's compliance with Title II, Title IV, Title VI, Title VII, Title IX and/or Section 504 or wish to make a complaint may contact the College's Affirmative Action Officer:

Vice President of Administrative Services  
Southwestern Oregon Community College  
1988 Newmark Ave., Tioga Hall, Room 511  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
(541) 888-7402

Southwestern Oregon Community College offers the following career and technical education programs for all students regardless of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, national origin, age, disability status, gender identity or protected veteran status, including those with limited English proficiency: Business, Office Technology, Computer Technology, Childhood Education, Criminal Justice, Culinary, Fire Sciences, Health Sciences, and Welding and Fabrication. Persons seeking further information concerning the vocational education offerings and specific pre-requisite criteria should contact:

Ali Mageehon, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services  
Southwestern Oregon Community College  
1988 Newmark Ave., Tioga Hall, Room 506  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
(541) 888-7417 [ali.mageehon@socc.edu](mailto:ali.mageehon@socc.edu)

**\*Grievances**

For more information on the grievance process visit the Student Handbook.

**Class Cancellations (Faculty Absence)**

Notices of class cancellations at SWOCC are made through an automated system called RAVE. Notices of class cancellations due to faculty absence will be sent to through the following devices: Voicemail to cell phone, text to cell phone, and email to college email account. To receive these important notices, please update your cell phone, telephone and email contact information through myLakerLink, click on the Student Information tab, then Rave User Portlet.

**Cell Phone Use Policy**

Given the disruptive potential posed by cell phones, students are required to keep cell phones off during class lectures. Use of cell phones during laboratory exercises are permissible, but please consider those around you.





Day	Topic	Due 11:59 pm
T 1/7	Course Introduction	Pass Code: Syllabus Quiz
R 1/9	Section 6.1: Greatest Common Factor & Factoring by Grouping Section 6.2 (Part 1): Factoring Trinomials of the Form $x^2+bx+c$	
M 1/13		Pass Codes: 6.1, 6.2 (Part 1)
T 1/14	Section 6.2 (Part 2): Factoring Trinomials of the Form $ax^2+bx+c$ Section 6.3: Factoring Special Products	
R 1/16	Section 6.4: General Strategy for Factoring Polynomials Section 6.5: Polynomial Equations	
M 1/20	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</b>	Pass Codes: 6.2 (Part 2), 6.3, 6.4, 6.5
T 1/21	Section 7.1 (Part 1): Simplifying Rational Expressions Section 7.1 (Part 2): Multiplying and Dividing Rational Expressions	
R 1/23	Section 7.2: Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions Section 7.3: Combining Operations and Complex Fractions	
M 1/27		Pass Codes: 7.1 (Part 1), 7.1 (Part 2), 7.2, 7.3
T 1/28	Section 7.4: Equations Involving Rational Expressions Wiggle Time	
R 1/30	Section 8.2: Simplifying Radical Expressions Section 8.3: Rational Exponents	
M 2/3		Pass Codes: 7.4, 8.2, 8.3
T 2/4	Section 8.4: Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying Radical Expressions Section 8.5: Dividing Radical Expressions and Rationalizing Denominators	
R 2/6	<b>Review for Midterm Exam</b>	
M 2/10		<a href="#">Optional Extra Credit</a> <a href="#">Pass Code: Midterm</a> <a href="#">Review (Due: 11:59</a> <a href="#">pm! Not accepted</a> <a href="#">late!)</a>
T 2/11	<b>Midterm Exam (Chapters 6 &amp; 7)</b>	
R 2/13	Section 8.6: Solving Radical Equations	
M 2/17	<b>Presidents Day Holiday</b>	Pass Codes: 8.4, 8.5, 8.6
T 2/18	Section 8.8: Complex Numbers	
R 2/20	Section 9.1: Solving Quadratics: Square Root Property	
M 2/24		Pass Codes: 8.8, 9.1



T 2/25	Section 9.2: Solving Quadratics: Completing the Square	
R 2/27	Section 9.3: Solving Quadratics: Quadratic Formula	
M 3/3		
T 3/4	Section 9.4: Solving Equations Using Quadratic Methods	Pass Codes: 9.2, 9.3
R 3/6	Section 9.5: Applications of Quadratic Equations	
M 3/10		Pass Codes: 9.4, 9.5
T 3/11	Section 9.6: Graphs of Quadratic Functions Using Properties	
R 3/13	<b>Review for Final Exam</b>	
M 3/17		Pass Code: 9.6 <u>Optional Extra Credit</u> <u>Pass Code: Final Exam</u> <u>Review</u> (Due: 11:59 pm! Not accepted late!)
T 3/18	<b>Final Exam (Chapters 8 &amp; 9)</b>	