
INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA in Fall 2018 (MA0900)

Course Code	MA0900	Professor(s)	Taylor Coffman
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	SD-8
Class Schedule	M: 09:00-10:20 in PL-5	Office Hours	Monday 10:30-12:00, or by appointment
Credits	2	Email	tcoffman@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Intermediate Algebra, MA0900, is designed to provide students with the fundamental algebra skills needed to succeed in later math classes: Functions and Modeling, Calculus, and beyond. You will have seen most of these topics at some point in your mathematical careers. Thus, think of the class as a thorough review and a sharpening of skills and understanding.

You will review the concept of a variable, and you'll explore how to simplify and evaluate variable expressions. Solving different types of equations will be a main priority. When possible, we will consider real-world applications of the topics learned, but keep in mind that this is a techniques class first, and an applications class second. Essentially, the aim is to gain comfort with variable expressions, equations, and the interpretations of those solutions.

An additional objective this semester is to develop a positive attitude and appreciation towards mathematics. I do not necessarily expect you to come away with a new-found love of math, but I do certainly hope you will come away knowing that these topics do exist and that they do have a purpose in the lives of many people, even yours. Ask all of the questions that you have and let's work together to see how the ideas discussed can have an impact in your life.

Course Learning Outcomes

Be able to define variables and use them in algebraic and real-world contexts
Understand how to simplify, evaluate, and solve algebraic expressions and equations
Be able to graphically interpret the algebraic results

General Education

Course Outline

- Foundations
- Solving Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Graphs
- Systems of Linear Equations
- Polynomials
- Factoring
- Quadratic Equations

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Homework 50%

Weekly Quizzes 10%

Midterm 20%

Final Exam 20%

Note: grading is on a Credit (CR) or No Credit (NC) basis

Other

Khan Academy Videos & WebAssign

Each week a good portion of your learning will take place within two online environments: Khan Academy and WebAssign. I will post video links on Aula that correspond to the topics I want to progress through each week. In class, I will elaborate on some of the harder or subtler topics. However, a large part of the material you will get from these online video links. Since many of you have seen these topics before, this will allow you to focus on the topics you struggle with and move more quickly over the topics with which you feel strong. It is strongly recommended that you watch the videos – taking notes while doing so – **BEFORE** you move on to the WebAssign homework.

Homework in this class will take place within the WebAssign online platform. Each week I will post the assignments to be worked on and completed during that week. That is, you have one week to complete the assignments. WebAssign will automatically grade your submitted answers. However, you have an unlimited amount of submissions. So while you are being

graded on performance, you are encouraged to fix and learn from your mistakes by resubmitting problems you may initially struggle with.

You need to work through the homework sections in order, and you cannot move on to the next homework section until you obtain a 70% on the previous homework section.

During the first day of class, I will demonstrate how to sign up for and access WebAssign and how to find your way around the online environment.

Homework

We learn math by doing math. Homework plays a big role in this class – 50% is significant so keep up with the assignments.

Homework will take place within WebAssign (detailed above).

Weekly Quizzes

Each class there will be a one-problem quiz on the material from the previous week. These quizzes cannot be made up.

Technology

- Webassign: homework, grades
- Slack: private messages, class messages, announcements, links, syllabus, etc.