MTH 95
Intermediate Algebra
Course Syllabus, Winter 2023

Portland Community College, Rock Creek Campus, 17705 NW Springville Road, Portland, OR 97229

Class Information

CRN: **10412** Time: **M, W 12:00 – 2:20 PM**
Credits: **4** Room: **Bldg 2, Room 257**

Instructor

Name: **Irene Tarango**
Email: irene.tarango@pcc.edu Phone: 971-722-3581 (voice messages only)
Office Hours: **M, W 2:30 –3:00** in the Math Department Office, Building 2, Room 210

Communication

If you have questions regarding any aspect of the course, stop by to see me during office hours or send me an email. Over the weekends, I will check emails on Sunday evening. If my posted hours do not work for you, contact me to schedule an appointment. As a PCC student, you are expected to check your PCC email account once a day. Please note that I can only respond to your PCC email account and emails without a subject may be discarded.

Extra Help

- **Student Learning Center**, free drop-in tutoring, **Bldg 7, Rm 218**: https://www.pcc.edu/tutoring/
- **PCC eTutoring**, free online tutoring: **www.pcc.edu/etutor**

Course Description

Introduces algebraic concepts and processes with a focus on factoring, functions, rational expressions, solving equations (quadratic, rational, radical, absolute value), and solving inequalities. Emphasizes number-sense, applications, graphs, formulas, and proper mathematical notation. Prerequisites: (MTH 63 or MTH 65 or MTH 70) and (RD 90 and WR 90) or IRW 90 or equivalent placement. For a full description of the course's content, refer to the MTH 95 Course Content and Outcome Guide at http://www.pcc.edu/ccog/. Pay special attention to the Documentation Standards for Mathematics. You will be expected to meet these standards.

Class Format

This class will run as a flipped class. At home, you will take notes while watching video lectures and read the online text as an initial way to gain familiarity with the material. During the first part of class, you will do activities (usually in pairs or small groups) to deepen your understanding of the material. In the second part of class, you will work individually on problems assigned in WeBWorK, an online homework tool. After class you will complete any problems not completed in class and prepare for the next class by watching the video lecture and reading the text for the next sections.

There are several advantages to a flipped class. Students retain more when learning via discussions, doing practice problems, and teaching others. When watching the lecture videos, students can pause, rewind, or stop the lectures as needed to better understand the concepts. By doing assignments in class, the instructor and students' classmates are available to help each other learn. Flipping also provides differentiated instruction and practice for each student's path to success.

Required Materials

- Textbook: **Open Resources for Community College Algebra** (ORCCA), http://spot.pcc.edu/math/orcca/orcca.html. You may purchase a paper copy at the PCC Bookstore.
- A **scientific calculator** is required. Cell phone calculators are prohibited during exams. For graphing, where possible, instructors will demonstrate using Desmos, GeoGebra, or other online programs in class. Assessments requiring the use of a graphing calculator will be done outside of proctored exams.
- Other: **pencil**, **graph paper, straight edge (can use your student ID card).**

Important Dates

Final Exam: Wednesday, **Mar 22nd, 12:00 – 1:50 PM**
Last day to **drop** (no transcript record, tuition refund): Saturday, **Jan. 17th.**
Last day to **withdraw** (W on transcript, no refund) or change grading options: Saturday, **March 18th** Additional Add/Drop information can be found at www.pcc.edu/registration/dropping.html.

Attendance

You are expected attend all classes in which you are enrolled, be in class on time, stay for the entire class, and actively participate. Missing class or coming to class late greatly reduces your chances of succeeding. **If you are unable to attend for any reason, you are still responsible for finding out what occurred in class, learning the covered material, and completing any assignments.** If you know in advance that you will miss class, you may be able to take a test early. This option is at the instructor's discretion and must be communicated in advance of the planned absence, **at least 1 week before taking a quiz or exam**. Only one quiz and one exam may be taken early. This is not an option for a last-minute unexpected absence.

Unless you have made prior arrangements with your instructor, you may be dropped from the class roster if you do not attend the first class session. If you miss both first two days of class, you will be dropped from the class.

If you do not attend or stop attending classes and fail to personally drop within the refund period, you will be responsible for all tuition and fees. Faculty members are not required to drop students for nonattendance. If you have excessive absences and fail to drop or withdraw from class by the deadlines, a grade of F may be assigned. For drop deadlines and further information on dropping a class, see dropping classes, https://www.pcc.edu/enroll/registration/dropping.html. You can only attend classes for which you are officially registered. You can't sit-in on a class without the proper registration for the course. More information can be found at https://www.pcc.edu/enroll/registration/attendance.html.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students are required to comply with the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook https://www.pcc.edu/policy/student-rights/. The Handbook includes the Code of Student Conduct and the Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Integrity Statement

Students must complete this course in accordance with the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook: www.pcc.edu/about/policy/student-rights/student-rights.pdf#academic-integrity.

Instructional ADA Statement

PCC is committed to ensuring that classes are accessible. Accessible Ed & Disability Resources [www.pcc.edu/disability] works with students and faculty to minimize barriers. If students elect to use approved academic accommodations, they must provide in advance formal notification from Accessible Ed & Disability Resources to the instructor.

Title IX Statement

Portland Community College is committed to creating and fostering a learning and working environment based on open communication and mutual respect. If you believe you have encountered sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability please contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at (971) 722-5840 or equity.inclusion@pcc.edu

Sanctuary Statement

PCC promotes the success, dignity, and worth of each individual by providing a safe environment where the examination of divergent ideas, experiences and systems of inequality adds depth to the learning experience. PCC strives to provide opportunity to all students and the appropriate level of support services to ensure the highest level of success. For more information and resources, see https://www.pcc.edu/resources/undocumented-students/.

Grading Breakdown and Course Grade

Grading:

Inclass/Group Activities & Graded Assessments	10 %
PreAssignment/Lecture Notes	15 %
WebWorks Assignments	10 %
Exams (2 exams)	40%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

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

Information regarding grading options and deadlines, along with a link to the Academic Standards and Practices: Grading Guidelines, can be found at www.pcc.edu/grades.

Desire2Learn

Grades will be posted in **Desire2Learn** (D2L). The "D2L Brightspace login" link is on the left sidebar of your MyPCC homepage. Check your grades often by selecting the **Grades** tab.

Other important information such as **Video Notes**, **Activity Worksheets**, **Study Resources**, and **Exam Reviews** will also be posted in D2L, found by selecting the **Content** tab.

Exams

There will be two exams during the term and a two-hour comprehensive Final Exam. All exams will be in-class, closed-note, and closed-book and must be completed using a pencil. One part will require the use of a calculator, and for the other part no calculator will be allowed. Exams will be graded for correctness and on your ability to **clearly communicate your reasoning** as well as the answer. Students are expected to take all exams and turn in all work on the specified dates. ***Make-ups for exams are only intended for students who have an unforeseen reason for not attending class on the specified date of the exam.*** If you ***know in advance*** that you will be unable to attend class, you should arrange with me to turn in all work and/or take any exam ahead of schedule for full credit. The Final Exam is a two-hour comprehensive exam. It will be a cumulative exam covering all the content of the course. **You must average at least 65% on all three exams in order to pass the class.** The course schedule shows the exact date and time in accordance with college policy: http://www.pcc.edu/programs/schedules/finals.html.

Make-ups for exams

If you **do not** show up for exams on the scheduled day and **do not** notify me of your absence via email or voicemail *before* the exam, I will deduct 5% off your exam grade automatically. **You have 6 days to make up any missed test, if not made up within that time; your grade will be a 0.**

Graded Assessments

Graded assessments will occur after you complete the WebWorks homework i.e., at the end of class. They will be given almost each class session. I will drop the lowest 4 assessments. If you are absent, you will receive a 0 on the assessment, they cannot be made up. The assessment is a way to see what you have learned for that section(s). I will grade the assessment and you will also learn how I will grade on exams. Also, it will give you a way to practice how to show your work using the PCC Mathematical Notation. See explanation below.

Inclass/Group Activities

Activities include in-class group work, reviews for exams, and any other non-exam activities. You must be present and participate for the full time provided to receive full credit for in-class activities.

Lecture Video Notes

As you are watching the videos, you will be following along either on the provided note pages or your own paper. If you choose to use your own paper, the notes must be clearly organized as they are in the provided note pages and include all examples, graphs, and other details shown in the videos. Notes must be organized in a 3-ring binder. You may receive partial credit for late notes only if they are turned in by the next class. There are **no make-ups for** the missing the **Group Activity**. **Video Notes** not completed on time can receive up to 70% of partial credit if they are completed by the beginning of the next class. It is the student's responsibility to request credit for late Video Notes.

WeBWork Homework

This free online homework system will allow for practice with the concepts and types of problems that require proficiency to be successful in the course. For each assignment, you will need to log in to WeBWorK and complete the assigned problems. WeBWorks will automatically grade your work and provide instant feedback. There will be preassignments in WebWorks that allow you to practice skills as you go through the video notes and there will be a WebWork Homework assignment that will be assigned and worked on during the last half of the class. To earn full credit for the **Webwork Homework**, the student must either be working on the current assignment(s) for the full time allowed or show the instructor by the end of class that on the assignment(s) either at least 85% was earned or all problems have been completed with no tries remaining. If a student leaves early without informing the instructor, no credit will be earned.

Mathematical Notation Statement

It is the philosophy of the Portland Community College Mathematics Subject Area Committee (PCC Math SAC) that it is important for students to learn how to communicate mathematics using standardized notation, as this is part of the educational process. We believe that when students are able to effectively use mathematical notation to compose meaningful mathematical statements, it is reflective of a deeper understanding of the mathematical concepts being described.

Also, an understanding of math concepts and language includes the comprehension of math symbols and implementing their standard usage and format in communicating deductive mathematical reasoning. Finally, the importance of reading, writing and understanding the language of mathematics helps students communicate in the STEM fields.

Consequently, the PCC Math SAC has adopted "documentation standards" for many of our courses. These standards are intended to help students learn how to communicate mathematics effectively, which we believe will empower students to be successful in current and future coursework. In particular, this class will follow the standards for MTH 60, MTH 65, and MTH 95, which can be found at https://www.pcc.edu/programs/math/course-downloads.html. Additional notation expectations will be discussed and modeled in class.

Classroom Etiquette

Arrive on time, come to class prepared, contribute to class discussions, participate in group activities, and stay until the "Post" assignment is completed and you have completed your Graded Assessment. You are expected to be respectful of the learning process, your instructor, and your fellow students. Food and drink are not permitted in computer classrooms.

Cell Phones and Other Electronics

The use of personal devices (cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) in class is restricted to activities related to the course. Other activities inhibit your own learning and can be distracting to your classmates. If you disrupt the class or your own learning, you may be asked to put your device away for the remainder of the class period. *You may not use your cell phone as a calculator during tests.*