

Course Syllabus

Portland Community College | 12000 SW 49th Ave, Portland, OR 97219 | (971) 722-6111

This syllabus introduces you to the goals of the course and how we will be working together this term. Please read it carefully and contact me if you need further clarification.

Course Information

- Course Title: Intermediate Algebra
- Course Number: MTH 95
- CRN: 14435
- Credits: 4
- Term and Year: Winter 2025
- Prerequisites: (MTH 63 or MTH 65 or MTH 70) and (RD 90 and WR 90) or IRW 90 or equivalent placement. Recommended: MTH 63 or MTH 65 or MTH 70 be taken within the past 4 terms. The PCC math department recommends that students take MTH courses in consecutive terms.
- Class Meetings & Times: Tuesday/Thursday, 1:00 PM to 3:20 PM
- Modality / Location: In Person, Southeast Campus, TABOR 126

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Miranda Ramsey
- Email: miranda.ramsey@pcc.edu
- Phone: (503) 683-1403
- Office Location: Southeast Campus, SCOM 214
- Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, at the Student Learning Center, or by appointment
- School Address: Portland Community College, 12000 SW 49th Ave., Portland, OR 97219

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. Audit available.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

- Factor expressions and use factoring to simplify rational expressions and solve quadratic equations.
- Solve absolute value, quadratic, rational, radical equations, and compound inequalities both symbolically and graphically.

- Understand the definition of a function and use it to distinguish between function and non-function relationships.
- Interpret information provided in function notation given a function expressed in graphical, symbolic, numeric, or verbal form.
- Use variables to represent unknown quantities, create a function to model a situation, and use algebra and/or technology to find and interpret a result.
- Interpret properties of functions and relations, such as the meaning of ordered pairs, domain and range, maximum and minimum values, and intercepts.

Instructional Materials

Textbook(s)

- ORCCA (Online Resources for Community College Algebra), by PCC Faculty, Chapters 10-13. You have a few options for obtaining this textbook:
 - Free access to an [interactive online edition](#).
 - Free access to a [black and white PDF edition](#) (for printing) and a [color PDF edition](#) (for screen viewing).
 - Purchase a paperback version on [Amazon](#) or at the [PCC Bookstore](#) for approximately \$16 (make sure to get Part 3 to get the correct chapters).

Supplies

- Pencils and erasers
- Ruler
- Graph paper (My favorite is [Engineering Paper](#) or [Dot Grid Paper](#) for a clean appearance, but simple graph paper is acceptable.)

Software/Hardware/Equipment

The specific software/hardware/equipment used in this course are:

- WeBWork for homework assignments
- D2L for additional materials and assignment submissions

Please visit the technology support section of [Student Support Resources](#) for a complete list of apps and tools for PCC students.

Technical Expectations

The technical requirements for the course include:

- [Technology Requirements for taking an online course at PCC](#)
- [A recommended Internet Browser installed](#)
- [Ability to use Google Drive and Google Docs](#)
- Webcam and/or microphone for meetings and online appointments

Accessibility

This course uses digital courseware, software, or texts that may cause barriers for those using assistive, or accessibility-related technologies. If you encounter barriers, please contact the Access Tech Team at access-tech-group@pcc.edu or by calling 971-722-TECH (971-722-8324).

Instructional Approach

Mathematics has an unfortunate reputation for being a challenging subject that only some people are capable of engaging with. I strongly believe that this is not true, and that more people are capable of mathematics than we give credit to. My goal is to facilitate creativity and discovery, rather than simply dictating facts and procedures to memorize. In my lectures I set out to establish a question that can ground us and give us context for the math we are working with, and through group work students will be encouraged to talk through problems, ask for help, and lift each other up.

Weekly Structure

Each week, we will cover a few sections from the textbook, at a pace of about one chapter every two weeks. You will be assigned two homework assignments, one set of WeBWorK problems and one set of problems to write out by hand, which will correspond to the material we cover in class. On Thursdays, there will be a quiz covering material you should be comfortable with.

Attendance & Participation

Group work is a large component of this course, so students are expected to attend class and collaborate with each other. However, I understand that perfect attendance is not a practical expectation. If you must miss class, please email me to let me know, and I'll work with you to make sure you keep up and that your grade is not impacted.

First Week Activities

During the first week of the term, instructors must:

- Identify students who are enrolled but not engaged in a class. These are referred to as "No Show" students and will be dropped from the class as per PCC's [G302 Grading Guidelines policy](#).
- In order to avoid being dropped as a "No Show" student, you must complete the following activities by their deadlines:
 - Attend class on Tuesday, January 7, 2025
 - Complete the [Student Introduction](#) form before class Thursday, January 9, 2025.

Communication Guidelines

I highly encourage you to exchange contact information with your peers, especially those you are working with in groups, to work together outside of class. Email, group chats, and Discord servers are all excellent ways to connect and collaborate.

Best Way to Contact Me

I check my email often! If you need anything, please contact me at miranda.ramsey@pcc.edu. Emails sent on weekdays will be answered within 24 hours. Emails sent over the weekend or holiday will be answered the following scheduled school day.

Graded Assignments & Feedback

For more information, please go to the [PCC Grading Guidelines](#).

WeBWork Assignments (10%)

Each week will have WeBWork assignments corresponding to the sections we cover in class. These are due the following Monday at 10 PM.

Problem Sets (10%)

Each week will have a Problem Set corresponding to the material we cover in class. These are due the following Tuesday at 1 PM (start of class). The lowest scoring Problem Set will be dropped.

Group Work (10%)

After each lecture portion of the class, we will get into groups to work together on some exercises. You will take on one of four roles in your group for that day:

- **Manager:** Your role is to facilitate the group activity, carefully reading each problem to the group and keeping the group on task.
- **Presenter:** Your role is to present the problem on the board, taking in suggestions from the rest of the group to help solve the problem together.
- **Recorder:** Your role is to carefully and clearly record the solutions on your group worksheet.
- **Outreach:** Your role is to reach out to me, or to another group, to ask for help if your team gets stuck, and to offer suggestions to other groups if they ask for help.

Outside of these roles, you will all be responsible for finding the solutions to the exercises together.

To receive credit, a shared worksheet will be turned in. Each day of participation is worth 5 points toward your Group Work score, and taking on each role at least once during the course will earn 5 additional points. Your work itself will not be graded, but I will check it for accuracy so that I can offer feedback if needed.

Quizzes

Each Thursday at the end of class, there will be a Quiz covering material from the week before. These will be graded and returned on Tuesday, when we will go over them in class.

Quiz Corrections

After receiving your graded quiz, you may complete a Quiz Correction by rewriting the quiz with the correct answers, due the next class. Quiz Corrections may earn back up to half of your missed points, so if your first quiz scores a 6/10, a Quiz Correction can bring your grade for that quiz up to 8/10. Missed quizzes can be partially made up by completing a Quiz Correction in the same way.

Exams (30% Each)

There will be one Midterm Exam in class on February 6, 2025, and one Final Exam during our Exam period on March 17, 2025 from 1:00 PM to 2:50 PM.

Practice Exams

Before each exam, you will be given a Practice Exam to work on with your group, and to take home to study. The Practice Exams will have the same kinds of problems (and roughly the same difficulty) as the actual exams, so you can ensure that you are prepared and comfortable on exam day.

Midterm Correction

Like the Quizzes, you will be able to gain back up to half of your missed points by completing a Midterm Correction. Unfortunately, since the Final is our last time together, there will be no correction opportunity for the Final Exam.

Feedback

I will do my best to return all graded work to you by the next class meeting, so that we can go over it in class, and grades will be recorded in the D2L gradebook within a week.

The deadline for me to submit your final grade is March 24, 2025 (Monday) at 5:00 PM.

For more information, visit [Viewing instructor feedback](#).

Late Work & Make-up Policy

- Late WeBWork may be submitted through the following Friday night at 10 PM for 75% credit.
- Missed Quizzes may be turned in as Quiz Corrections for 50% credit.

Grading Criteria

Please read over all assignments in advance and reach out if you have any questions or if you want to confirm you understand them correctly. Clarifying questions will help you avoid deductions in your grades. Learn more about the [Grading Guidelines at PCC](#).

Activities	%
WeBWork	10%
Problem Sets	10%
Group Work	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grading Scale by Percentage
A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	< 59%

PCC Policies and Deadlines

Visit the [PCC Policies](#) page for information on:

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Accessibility Statement & Resources
- Drop/Withdraw Deadlines
- Grading Policy
- Internet Etiquette
- PCC Payment Policy

- PCC Registration Policy
- Sanctuary College
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Title IX/Non-Discrimination

Drop/Withdraw Deadlines

A student is responsible to add/ drop/ withdraw classes. Please review [PCC Registration Policy](#) for more information.

Add and Drop Deadlines

- Students need to register online via MyPCC. Please review the [Online Registration Instructions](#) to find out how.
- For 8-12 week classes, students need to drop out by the end of the first week of classes. Students can view course specific deadlines from the MyPCC Home tab, 'View My Drop & Withdraw Dates' link.
- For late add, students must add within two business days of the course drop deadline.

Accommodations and Services

PCC is committed to supporting all students. If you plan to use academic accommodations for this course, please contact your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. Accommodations are not retroactive; they begin when the instructor receives the “Approved Academic Accommodations” letter from you (submitted in person for courses on campus; via email for Online Learning courses). To request academic accommodations for a disability, please contact an Accessible Education & Disability Resources counselor on any PCC campus. Office locations, phone numbers, and additional information may be located on the [Accessible Education & Disability Resources website](#).

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students are required to complete this course in accordance with the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#). The Handbook establishes students' freedoms and protections as well as expectations of appropriate behavior and ethical academic work. The Handbook includes items such as the Policy on Student Rights, and the Student Code of Conduct Policy and Procedures.

Generative AI Statement

The use of generative AI in this course such as, but not limited to ChatGPT, should be used only if it does not otherwise violate the Academic Integrity Policy of the College. Such violations include turning in work that is not your own.

In this class specifically, while generative AI and language learning models can be excellent tools for summarizing and presenting information, they are not themselves capable of mathematical reasoning and are prone to errors - sometimes in very comical ways! Leaning on such tools when you are yourself trying to learn something, even in ways that seem to be academically honest, can instill a dependency

that is really challenging to let go of later. **I highly recommend avoiding the use of tools like ChatGPT, even as a study assistant!** Please ask me for help instead.

Academic Integrity (rules about cheating, plagiarism, or sharing work)

The handbook contains the Code of Student Conduct and the Academic Integrity Policy. Cheating includes any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead the instructor in arriving at an honest grade assessment, and may include copying answers from other students or using unauthorized notes during tests. Plagiarism is a particular form of cheating that involves presenting as one's own the ideas or work of another and may include using other people's ideas without proper attribution and submitting another person's work as one's own. Dishonest activities such as cheating on exams and submitting or copying work done by others will result in disciplinary actions including but not limited to receiving a failing grade. For further information, review the institution's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Internet Etiquette (or Netiquette)

[Click here for more information about Netiquette.](#)

Sanctuary College Statement

PCC is a sanctuary college. For more information and resources, see the [resources for undocumented students page](#).

Inclement Weather Statement

Our course is typically unaffected by college campus and facility closures or delayed class start times. Our regular due dates [and Zoom class meeting times (if a remote class)] apply. However, if PCC must close all operations, our regular due dates will be adjusted accordingly. Please check your email for my instructions and continue to check Brightspace during closures.

Flexibility Statement

The instructor reserves the right to modify course content and/or substitute assignments and learning activities in response to institutional, weather, or class situations.