Course: Intermediate Algebra     Blinn College
(MATH 0312 – Section E5,E6,& E7)

Fall 2007

Instructor:    Judy Wagner

Office #221 in Library Building

E-mail: The best way to reach me is through e-mail. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me anytime even on weekends if you have a question or a problem. If I am at home, I will e-mail you back ASAP. If you send me an e-mail please put your name and M0312 on the description line so that I will not delete it as junk mail. My e-mail address is "judybwagner@hotmail.com"

Blinn Office Phone: 979-209-7396; Please leave a message on my Blinn Office phone if you have a problem I need to know about and you cannot use email. I perfer email messages. I am in my office Monday – Wednesday shortly after 8:00 PM until 10:00 or 10:30 PM. Please do not hesitate to call me at that time. If I am in my office and you want to come up, the building is open until 10:00 PM.

Office Hours: (My office is L221) 2:40 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Tuesdays and Thursdays – if I am not in my office please look for me in the tutoring room L245 (3:40 – 5:00); Mondays and Wednesdays I am in my office from 4:05 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Please e-mail me if you have a problem do not leave a phone message unless absolutely necessary and you cannot use email. I will be available by appointment Monday and Wednesday 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon – If I am not in my office, I am in the tutoring room L245 from 11:00 – 11:40 AM. I am in my office Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 A.M. – 10:35 A.M. The best time to reach me is after 8:00 P.M. – 10:30 P.M. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. I am usually not on campus on Fridays.
Tutoring Room: I am in the tutoring room L245 on Mondays and Wednesday from 11:00 to 11:40 AM and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40 to 5:00 PM.

Course Description: Intermediate Algebra is the study of factoring rules, rational expressions, rational exponents, radicals, complex numbers, inequalities, quadratic equations, linear systems, and equations with radicals, rational expressions and exponents.

Prerequisites: MATH 0310 with a grade of "C" or better or high school Algebra I, high school Geometry, high school Algebra II, and a score of 230 or higher on the mathematics section of TASP, THEA, or an appropriate score on the alternate test instrument.

Length of Term: One semester; Three hours per week

Credit: Three semester hours

For a list of Student Learning Outcomes refer to: Textbook: Intermediate Algebra, Second Edition by Carson, Gillespie, Jordan

1. The Real Numbers and Expressions
   1.1 Sets and the Structure of Algebra
   1.2 Operations with Real Numbers, Properties of Real Numbers
   1.3 Exponents, Roots and Order of Operations
   1.4 Evaluating and Rewriting Expressions
   Summary
   Review Exercises
   Practice Test

2. Linear Equations and Inequalities in One Variable
   2.1 Linear Equations and Formulas
   2.2 Solving Problems
   2.3 Solving Linear Inequalities Applications
   2.4 Compound Inequalities
   2.5 Equations Involving Absolute Values
   2.6 Inequalities Involving Absolute Values
3. Equations and Inequalities in Two Variables and Functions
   3.1 Graphing Linear Equations
   3.2 Slope of a Line
   3.3 The Equation of a Line
   3.5 Introduction to Functions and Function Notation

Summary
Review Exercises
Practice Test
Chapters 1-3 Cumulative Review Exercises

4. Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities
   4.1 Solving Systems of Equations in Two Variables

Review Exercises
Practice Test

5. Exponents and Polynomials
   5.1 Exponents and Scientific Notation
   5.2 Polynomials and Polynomial Functions
   5.3 Multiplying Polynomials
   5.4 Dividing Polynomials
   5.5 Synthetic Division and the Remainder Theorem

Summary
Review Exercises
Practice Test

6. Factoring
   6.1 Greatest Common Factor and Factoring by Grouping
   6.2 Factoring Trinomials
   6.3 Factoring Special Products and Factoring Strategies
   6.4 Solving Equations by Factoring

Summary
Review Exercises
Practice Test
Chapters 1-6 Cumulative Review Exercises

7. Rational Expressions and Equations
   7.1 Simplifying, Multiplying and Dividing Rational Expressions
   7.2 Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions
7.3 Simplifying Complex Rational Expressions
7.4 Solving Equations Involving Rational Expressions
7.5 Applications with Rational Expressions
Summary
Review Exercises
Practice Test
8. Rational Exponents, Radicals, and Complex Numbers
8.1 Radical Expressions and Functions
8.2 Rational Exponents
8.3 Multiplying, Dividing and Simplifying Radicals
8.4 Adding and Subtracting and Multiplying Radical Expressions
8.5 Rationalizing Numerators and Denominators
8.6 Radical Equations and Problem Solving
8.7 Complex Numbers
Summary
Review Exercises
Practice Test
9. Quadratic Equations
9.1 Completing the Square
9.2 Solving Equations Using the Quadratic Formula
9.3 Solving Equations that are Quadratic In Form
9.5 Solving Nonlinear Inequalities
Summary
Review Exercises
Practice Test
11. Conic Sections
11.1 The Circle

For a specific listing of textbook problems refer to the Textbook Assignment Sheet given out with this first day handout.

Course Objectives: The student should perform at a 70% or better average on examinations and quizzes covering the topics listed in the course description and those topics included in the daily schedule.

Note: There is one textbook on file in the library under my name if you are short of funds at the beginning of the semester.

MathXL: You will be required to purchase an on line service called “MathXL”. It comes with your textbook. The cheapest way to purchase it is on-line. You will be required to do some homework problems on line each day. These problems will be included as part of your textbook homework grade.

Instructional Packet: You will need to buy in the copy center (across from the Library) an instructional packet written by Judy Wagner for this course. Note: There is one blank packet on file in the library under my name if you are short of funds at the beginning of the semester. You can do the first lessons on notebook paper.

Supplies:

1. Instructional Materials Packet purchased from the Copy Center, across from the Library,
2. The textbook,
3. The solution manual or study guide,
4. A large three ring binder to put your Instructional Materials Packet into,
5. Pencils,
6. Paper,
7. Graph paper,
8. Stapler (to staple your worksheets or work together),
9. Large Paper-Clips,
10. A graphing calculator, (I prefer a TI-83 Plus, Silver or TI-84), if you have another type of
Graphing calculator (TI- 82) that will be okay also.

11. A red pencil or pen,
12. Two different colored highlighters.
13. A Student I. D. Always bring your student I.D. with you to class on test days. You cannot take an exam in the learning center without a student I.D.
14. On-line MathXL service

Please refer to the Assignment by Date Assignment Sheet handed out with this first day handout to have a complete listing of tentative daily assignments in the packet and in the textbook. You will find your major exams listed on that Assignment sheet. MathXL follows the textbook assignment sheet.

Tentative Exam Schedule: Date
Exam 1, Basic Alg./Factoring Thursday, Sept. 13
Exam 2, Factoring/Polynomials Tuesday, Oct. 2
Exam 3, Part 1: Inequalities Tuesday, Oct. 16
Exam 3 Part 2: Quadratics/Radicals Thursday, Oct. 25
Take Home Review Re-exam, due Tues. Oct. 30
Exam 4, Radicals/Exam 3 Material Tuesday, Nov. 13
Final Exam Sign up for exam time: Dec. 7 - 12
Other Important Dates: Last day to drop with a “W” is Friday Nov. 16, 2007; Last day to drop with a “Wf” or “Wp” is Thursday Nov. 6, 2007.

Grading Policy: Students will accumulate points from: homework from the textbook and Math Zone, daily pop tests, short quizzes, take home exams, major exams, the post test and final exam, and extra credit assignments. Total points must be recorded on a graded tally sheet by students themselves. An A will be given based on 90-100% of total points accumulated, B from 80-89%, C from 70-79%, and D from 60-69%. Your final exam counts approximately 40% of your final grade.
Grades: You will be given a grade printout which corresponds to your grade tally sheet after each major exam prior to the final exam. These print outs will indicate to you what you have not turned in and your current percent score.

Attendance Policy: The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student’s name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week’s worth of absences during the semester (3 MWF or 2 MW/TH), he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. If the student accumulates a total of two weeks worth of absences (6 MWF or 4 MW/TH), he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

Students must notify me within 12 hours of an absence as to why they were absent.

The only excused absences as defined by Blinn College are:

(1) Observance of religious holy days -- Sec. 51.911(b), Texas Education Code. An institution of higher education shall excuse a student attending classes and/or required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. A student whose absence is excused under this section may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete
an assignment. The student should notify his/her instructor(s) no later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); and,

(2) Representing Blinn College at an official institutional function -- a student is asked by the institution to be an official representative of the college at any function approved by the institution, the student is excused from any classes missed and must be allowed to complete all work without penalty for that absence(s) in a timely manner as directed by the faculty member.

Make-up Policy: NO MAKEUPS!!!!!! Students will not be given make ups! If you miss one exam, the percentage points your receive on your final exam will be substituted for that one missing exam. You will not be given the opportunity to earn extra credit points for that exam by doing exam corrections. You will receive a zero on all additional exams that you miss. The final exam grade substitution can be used only for one exam. If you miss an exam, please notify me, on or before the exam day, by phone: 209-7396 (office) or E-mail at "judybwagner@hotmail.com" as to why you have missed that exam.

If you miss the exam, and you have a take home exam, you must find away to get that portion of your exam to me. You can have someone put the take home part of your exam under my door if you are ill. The take home exam must be turned in to me before the take home exams are returned to the rest of the class. You will receive a zero on that portion of the exam if you do not have it turned in by exam day. Take home exams may be turned in before the exam day, but not afterwards.
Your final exam grade will not be substituted for any exam on which you received a zero for scholastic dishonesty.

If you miss a regular class, call someone in the class to determine what you have missed. If you miss a daily work grade, borrow someone's paper that attended class and correct your daily work or correct your paper over the telephone. Staple all the papers related to a line grade together with the line number written on the top of the paper and the number you did correctly on it. Paper-clip your work to your grade tally sheet and turn it in to me. I will not give you credit for late work unless I have seen the completed corrected work.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Math Instructors would like to help students with disabilities achieve their highest potential in college. In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, students must provide an accommodation request from the Disabilities Coordinator, make an appointment with me during my office hours, and discuss what accommodations are appropriate for the course. Proper documentation should be provided to the Disabilities Coordinator in the Center for Student Development (209-7250) so that this can be done in a timely manner. Students must alert me to the situation as soon as possible. Accommodations are not retroactive and no accommodation will be granted until all paperwork is complete.

Classroom Policy: No food, drinks, or tobacco products are allowed in the classroom. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering class.

A STUDENT IS NOT TO GET UP AND WALK OUT OF MY CLASSROOM AND LEAVE FOR THE DAY WITHOUT EXPLAINING TO ME BEFORE CLASS WHY YOU ARE LEAVING. LEAVING WITHOUT EXPLANATION WILL BE COUNTED AS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FOR THAT DAY. (It is okay to leave to go to the bathroom) WALKING
OUT OF CLASS WITHOUT EXPLANATION IS RUDE AND UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR!

Final Exam: The final exam, which contains the post test, counts a large percentage of the student's grade (approximately 40%).

Calculator Policy: A graphing calculator is required in this course and I will be using a TI 83 in class. For you a TI-83 Plus, TI-83 Silver or TI-84 is preferred. Students are expected to provide their own calculator. Calculators will not be provided. Other graphing calculators may be used; however, the student is responsible for learning how to operate them. Symbolic calculators such as the TI-89, TI-92 and some models of HP-48 calculators will not be allowed in class. Although we will be using a calculator in class and for daily homework, Calculators will not be allowed on exams and the pre-post test. It is departmental policy not to allow students to use calculators on any developmental course exams. Students with documented learning disabilities, that may provide for a calculator accommodation, should contact the Office of Disability Services for further information.

There are some TI-83 Calculators in the learning center you can use while you are in the learning center, but you cannot take them home with you.

Scholastic Dishonesty: Students caught cheating on any assignment, quiz or exam in this course will be assessed a penalty that will range in severity from an F (or zero) on the particular activity involved to an F for the course. Any student assigned an F for cheating has one week from the time that the assignment, quiz or exam is returned to the class to dispute the grade. After one week, it will be assumed that the student has accepted the grade, and no changes will be made in the grade. Grades received as a penalty for cheating will not be dropped or replaced.
For the purpose of this course, cheating will be defined as (but not limited to) access or use of unauthorized material during exams and quizzes, collaboration between students during exams, quizzes, and assignments for which group work is not allowed, frequent perusal of another student's work during exams and quizzes, unauthorized copying of other student's work or allowing other students to copy your work on any assignment, quiz or exam, and having unauthorized programs or other information stored on calculators when these calculators are accessible during an exam or quiz.

Students who cheat and students who facilitate cheating when they allow other students to have access to their own work when that is not allowed will be subject to the same penalties.

Civility Statement: Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor: it is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.
OTHER GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Welcome to Mathematics with Judy Wagner, I hope this will be a pleasant experience for both of us. If you find yourself having difficulty or if you have a personal problem, you can see me during my office hours in my office #L221 in the Library Building (209-7396) Please call or e-mail me to let me know if you need to meet me at some other time. E-mail: "judybwagner@hotmail.com"

2. There is free tutoring available at Blinn College in the math tutoring room, room L245 and L247 in the library building during the fall and spring semester. I will let you know when the free tutoring will be available when the math department releases the schedule. There is tutoring available at certain times in room L247 in the math lab. Please check the schedule on the door so see when tutoring is available. You can also find someone to help you in the Learning Center at the Bryan Campus. Please make use of the tutoring available to you for help.

3. There are tapes in the learning center, which you can watch, that may help you understand something with which you are having difficulty.

4. If you have problems or other questions, please see me in my office hours. A good time to reach me is in my office shortly after 8:00 PM until 10:00 or 10:30 PM Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. You cannot get into the building after 10.00 PM.

5. You can e-mail me at "judybwagner@hotmail.com".

6. There are copies of old exams on file in the library for you to study. Please make sure you go into the library and look at them. Look for the typed computer exams in the folder in the Library. You will find some old exams with answers on them. You should make copies of these and practice working them before you take your exam.

7. You must purchase the instructional material packet from the Copy Center in the G Building at Blinn College to take this class. It has all of your daily worksheets, pop test, quizzes, informational sheets and review exams in it.
8. **You will need to attend every class.** You should copy down the problems I work for you in class. Keep these with your class notes. Re-work them and study them. Your exams will have problems on them similar to the problems I go over in class.

8. You will have a lot of homework daily. You can do all your textbook work on line. It will be graded for you. **You must do your on-line homework to pass this class.** There will be many problems to do each night. Expect to spend a lot of time doing on line work for this class. Your on-line home work will be graded by the computer and the points you earn from it will count about the same as a major exam so you must do your on-line homework daily.

9. **You must keep a daily tally sheet with your daily grades on it.** You should have something on each line on the tally sheet. **It is your responsibility to make sure you do all your work, grade it, and get it turned in.**

10. Your on-line homework counts as part of your grade, You cannot expect to pass this class without doing the necessary practice.

11. If you do textbook work, keep your homework on loose-leaf paper, not a spiral. **Do not turn in problems with the answers only. You must show all work on your paper to get credit for it.**

12. **Staple any worksheets to its corresponding homework papers.** Be sure to label assignments correctly for your notebook.

13. **You turn in your textbook homework in the order in which it was assigned on the assignment sheet.** Be sure to label assignments in the top right hand corner by writing the assignment number from the textbook assignment sheet on your homework. Use your textbook assignment sheet as a cover sheet in front of your textbook homework. You must highlight the assignments that you have completed. Put your grade tally sheet on the top of your homework and textbook assignment sheet. Record the completion score on the grade sheet that you should receive for your textbook work. You will turn in your textbook homework on exam days, I will grade your homework while you are taking your exam and return it to you the same day. Each regular assignment is worth 5 points each. You will have 5 homework grades. One with each exam. All textbook work is extra credit. These have a * by them.
14. Each extra credit assignment is worth 10 points. If you complete Chapter Review Sets or Chapter Tests that are assigned, you can earn extra credit points. Extra credit assignments are labeled with **. Label these in RED to ensure that I will see them in your homework folder and give you the necessary extra credit points.

15. There will be 4 major exams and a final exam, which includes your post test. Most exams will be given on the day on which they are assigned on your daily assignment sheet. Each exam will have a different number of points.

16. Please do not miss exams. NO MAKEUPS! Your final exam percentage grade will be substituted for only one exam. If you miss additional exams, you will receive a zero on all of them.

17. Students should expect daily pop quizzes. These quizzes will count as part of your grade. The points you earn on these quizzes will count as part of your total grade points. It is your responsibility to grade what you have missed and turn your work into me. Zeros on daily grades can drop your total point average a letter grade or two. You must do your homework and pay attention in class to do well on these quizzes. You should use these quizzes to help you study for your major exams. The purpose of the daily quizzes is to force you to attend class regularly, complete your assignments on time, and to help you to focus on the things you need to learn in this class. All grades will be recorded on your tally sheet.

18. Remember you must record your own scores on your grade tally sheet and the line number that is on the top of each assignment in the packet tells you which line to put that grade on. Use the sample grade sheet that I gave you as your guide as to what you need to turn in. The grade sheet follows the assignments assigned on the assignment by date assignment sheet. Each problem is worth one point on the daily pop tests. If I have indicated that a problem is worth more than one point, you should expect to see one like it one your next exam and on the final. I will not record anything in my computer unless it is recorded on your grade sheet. I don't know what you are giving me unless you record it on the grade sheet and write the line number on which it goes on the top of each assignment. If you turn in work without recording a score, I will give it back unrecorded in my computer. Please turn in your work when it is due. If you have recorded something incorrectly, I will record over your score. A "none" on your grade sheet indicates a grade of a zero.
Please turn in all grades with "none" in as soon as possible after they are assigned. Do not record things on the grade sheet that you are not turning in.

19. The more points that you accumulate in this class, the higher your grade will be. There are many ways to earn points.

20. Do you MathXL internet work every night after class. Complete each assigned assignment before the next class.

21. **Helpful hints:**

1) Form a study group with people in the class and go over your old pop tests, notes, etc. Study with a friend. It will help you.
2) Please feel free to ask questions if you do not understand.
3) Do not expect to do well in here if you miss any classes.
4) You must do your on-line homework each night before coming to class the next day.
5) Go to the math tutoring room L245 or L247 or the Learning Center to use the free tutoring offered by Blinn.
6) Look at the tapes in the Learning Center.
7) Call me in my office 209-7396, but I prefer email.
8) E-mail me if you need help: "judybwagner@hotmail.com".
9) See me in my office L221 during my office hours if you need help.
10) Make copies of the old exams in the Library and study them.
11) Do the extra credit homework assignments on the assignment to help raise your grade.
12) Always do your exam corrections after you get your exams back because the extra credit points you will earn will raise your grade significantly!
13) Exam corrections are not optional they are required, although you do earn extra credit points for doing them.
14) Bring your graphing calculator to class every day; put it on your desk and be prepared to use it.
15) If you are short of funds at the beginning of the semester, I have one text book on file in my name in the library that you may use while you are in the library if you need to do so.
16) If you are short of funds at the beginning of the semester, I have one blank packet on file in my name in the library that you may use while you are in the library if you need to do so. You can write the
beginning assignments on notebook paper.

**Class motto:**
Mathematics is a participation sport.