Math 56 Intermediate Algebra

Section: 50469  
Days: M, T, W, Th  
Time: 10-12:50 p.m.  
Location: NA-2

Instructor: Yan Tian  
Office: NS 355G  
Phone: 760-744-1150 ext 2806  
Email: ytian@palomar.edu  
Website: http://math.palomar.edu/ytian/

Office Hours  By appointments only


Scope of Course
This course is a review of elementary algebra and an in-depth coverage of intermediate algebra intended for students who have had previous experience with algebra. A scientific calculator (TI30XIIs or similar) is required for this course. No calculators that are capable of symbolic calculations are allowed. You need a ruler and graph papers.

Course Objectives
The successful students will be able to:
- Formulate algebraic models to represent relations from tables, graphs and problem situations
- Investigate and compare multiple representations of functions
- Analyze linear, quadratic, exponential, and logarithmic functions from graphic, numeric and analytical perspectives
- Solve application problems using various functions and interpret the solutions
- Identify and apply principles of algebra manipulation to write expressions and equations in alternative forms
- Apply critical and mathematical reasoning skills necessary in algebraic problem solving

Student Learning Outcomes
Determine and implement an appropriate method of solution for a variety of problems involving contemporary applications of linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions. Such applications include, but are not limited to, bacterial growth, exponential decay, earthquakes, compound and simple interest, and variation.

Grading Policy
Homework Assignments: 20%
Homework is assigned daily. Homework is due on the day that the test is given. Papers are to be stapled. Chapter and section numbers are to be written on the top of each page. Graphs are to be done on graphing paper with appropriate scales and labels, and to be attached to the proper questions. All work needs to be shown. Answers without work shown are not acceptable.
In-class Assignments, projects and lab assignments: 15%
In-class assignments and projects will be given throughout the course. These assignments will reflect current learning subjects and reinforce new concepts.

A weekly four-hour lab time in the Mathematical Learning Center (E2) is required. You need a total of 25 hours of lab time in first 6 weeks of the semester. Login is required to track your time.

Tests: 45%
Each test is closed-book and closed-notebook. All work needs to be shown in order to earn full or partial credit. The lowest test score will be dropped at the end of the semester. No make-up tests will be given. Most of tests are given with scientific calculators only. Any use of any mobile communication/audio device, during an exam, will result in zero point on that exam. Students must complete and turn in at least half of the homework in order to take tests.

Final Exam: 20%
The final exam is a comprehensive written exam.
Total percentage: >90:A; 80-89:B; 70-79:C; 60-69:D, <60: F

Attendance
Please notify the instructor if you are going to be absent. Two or more consecutive unexcused absences could result in student being dropped. Students may be dropped at any time if 25% of classes have been missed. Students may be dropped if not doing homework or not taking a test without reasonable excuses.

Dishonor
Students caught violating the Palomar Community College policy on academic integrity will meet with the consequences of that policy. (300.3)

Students with Disabilities
Please meet me to discuss testing accommodations during the first week.

Useful Information
- Attend classes
- Focus on the classroom lectures
- Participate in interactive study
- Do homework
- Form study groups or find study buddies

Find Help
- Visit the instructor for help
- Visit Mathematics Learning Center to get free tutoring
- Visit the library’s tutoring center to get free tutoring
- Visit STEM center