

**Math 99N Intermediate Algebra Syllabus
Fall 09**

Math Learning Program (MLP)

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Objective: This course is intended to prepare you for college level math courses offered by WSU. A grade of “C” or better fulfills the prerequisites for the following WSU Math courses: 105, 106, 107, 201, 205, 212, and 251.

Book: *Beginning and Intermediate Algebra plus MyMathLab Student Access Kit, 4/E;*

Lial, Hornsby, McGinnis; Addison-Wesley;

ISBN-10: 032155907X

ISBN-13: 9780321559074

If you buy a used book, you must also buy the access code online with a credit or debit card.

Calculators: No calculators. You may use your calculator for homework, but not on tests. You can check out calculators in the Main Office to use on your homework in the lab upstairs, but they may not be removed from the building.

Attendance: You will be required to attend class and it is your responsibility to make sure you sign the attendance sheet. You are allowed up to 5 unexcused absences, any more than 5 is an automatic F. Note that playing games, texting, sleeping or being otherwise disengaged in class does not constitute being there. You will be asked to leave and it will be marked as an unexcused absence.

Homework: Homework will be assigned through MyMathLab, by section. Each section will be due the day of the following lecture. There will be 6 homework sets, each worth 20 points. See the schedule for details.

Tests: There will be 6 tests, each covering one homework set. You will take each test at the MLA Main Office, outside of class. Testing hours are Monday through Friday 8am-3pm. Be sure to bring your WSU ID card (no other ID will suffice), a #2 pencil and a good eraser. If you do not have a pencil you can borrow one at the Main Office. Fill out a testing slip and lock up your gear in the lockers.

Note: There will be NO MAKEUPS. Late tests will not be accepted.

Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative. You must take the final exam to pass the course.

Grading: Your grade will be based on your homework, tests and the Final Exam:

Homework : 120 points

Tests: 600 points

Final Exam: 200 points

Total: 920 points

Grading scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
93%	90%	88%	83%	80%	78%	73%	70%	68%	60%

Math Trap: Math almost always makes sense— when someone else does it. It is very easy to watch someone else do it and think “That is so easy, so clear, why should I waste time studying what is so easy.” But when students try this, they are stuck wondering what to do next. For this reason, you must practice it yourself (do the homework).

Mathphobia: Many students think Math is a “Do this, then do this, then do that” exercise. They become afraid of Math because they think there is a lot to memorize. If the first 12 problems take three steps to complete, but the 13th only requires two, many students will try to force a third step, even if they do something they know to be wrong.

Getting to the solution of a problem is akin to driving someplace. If you make a wrong turn, you can either turn back, go around the block, take a different route, or some other option. As long as you get to the right answer, it does not matter if you took 3, 5, or 25 steps. There is a difference between inefficient and wrong. Many, many students have asked me which is the “right” way, and it is often difficult for them to understand that it does not matter.

Math builds: This is not an easy course. You should do some math on a daily basis. The material gets progressively more difficult. Know that for each hour in class, the typical student spends about 2 hours outside of class. Schedule it.

Study habits: Take notes in class, write everything down. Use pencil with a good eraser. Keep your MML homework in the same notebook, I recommend a three ring binder. You will want to refer back to it when studying for your tests. Use the tutors and computers upstairs so you can get help when you are stuck. The computer lab upstairs will be open M-F 8pm-4pm and also Tuesdays 4pm-8pm. There are no weekend hours, however there are other computer labs around campus.

Class load: Just because you are in a 4-year University does not mean you have to finish in 4 years. A twelve credit load is considered full time. If you are overloaded and find yourself falling behind in your classes, you may want to consider dropping a class to make the workload more manageable. It's better to have good grades in 4 classes rather than lousy grades in 6 classes, possibly having to repeat.

Non-credit class: This class is a non-credit class and is non-transferable (only good at WSU), however, your grade will show up on your transcript and be calculated into your semester GPA.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to maintain academic honesty. Collaboration is encouraged on homework and tutors are available to assist you, but all tests are considered individual work and must be completed without unauthorized assistance of any kind, including the help of other students or notes. All test materials and scratch paper are to be turned in with the test paper and attempting to remove test work out of the testing area and/or share that work with other students is considered cheating. If there are any questions as to what constitutes academic honesty, please consult the Office of Student Conduct:
<http://www.conduct.wsu.edu/AI>

Disability Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may mean that requested accommodations might not be available. All accommodations must be approved through the Disability Resource Center located in the Administration Annex Room 205, 335-1566.