

MAT120 SYLLABUS <http://web.gccaz.edu/~briag73751/index.html>



COURSE

MAT120 – Intermediate Algebra – In-Person – Section 38001 – 5 Credits – Fall 2019

INSTRUCTOR

Brian Bird – Office GCC North A 122 – (623) 888-7191 – brian.bird@gccaz.edu

TIME and LOCATION

Monday – Thursday 1:00 – 2:05 p.m. August 19th – December 5th Classroom GCC North A 111

Note: No class on September 2nd due to Labor Day
No class on November 11rd due to Veterans Day
No class on November 28th due to Thanksgiving

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Analysis of rational, radical, quadratic and exponential equations, functions and applications; graphs of radical, quadratic and exponential functions; operations on polynomial, rational, and radical expressions. Note: May receive credit for only one of the following: MAT120, MAT121, or MAT122. Prerequisites: (A grade of "C" or better in MAT090, or MAT091, or MAT092, or MAT093), or successful completion of required Maricopa Modules, or satisfactory score on District placement exam.

Note: Meeting the prerequisites does not guarantee your success in this class. You need to bring arithmetic skills, algebra skills and a strong work ethic to the class in order to be successful. The Federal Credit Hour Definition requires “a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit”.

RECOMMENDED BOOK via MyMathLab (MML)

To take full advantage of the class, you will need immediate access to MML (Course ID **bird54945**). This can be accomplished in several ways that will be discussed the first day of class. Prices range from \$40 to well over \$100. There is a 14 day free trial period so there are no excuses to not get signed up immediately. The course is based on the book: Elementary & Intermediate Algebra – Concepts & Application, Bittinger et. al., 6th Edition.

RECOMMENDED CALCULATOR

A scientific calculator (such as the TI-30XIIS) is strongly recommended and they cost less than \$15. If you are continuing your studies in math, you might want to consider purchasing a graphing calculator. Graphing calculators are available for lease from the college for \$20. Apps allow your smartphone to be used as a calculator (Wabbitemu for Android is free for example). Calculators will be allowed on tests. Smartphones can be used on tests with many rules (silent, airplane mode, WiFi off, flat on the desk at all times) – if you break a rule then you fail the test. Please see the instructor if you have any questions.

COMPETENCIES (<http://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/MCCCD.woa/wa/freeForm2?id=140505>)

Students will be able to:

4. perform operations with polynomials
5. become very proficient at factoring
6. simplify rational expressions and solve rational equations
7. understand function notation and work with functions in different representations
10. simplify expressions and solve equations involving exponents and radicals
11. solve and graph quadratic functions
12. simplify expressions, graph functions and solve equations involving exponents

COMMUNICATION

I will be sending emails to your official school address and the address you enter in MML. Please check these regularly as you will be responsible for the content. If you don't want to check your school email address, then forward it to an address that you will check. Refer to <https://www2.gccaz.edu/technology-help/student-email> for further information. When you send emails to me, please include your first and last name as well as “MAT120” in the subject or first line.

GRADING

ONLINE HOMEWORK 0%

Homework will be assigned via MML (Course ID **bird54945**) but it does NOT count towards this category and might not count at all. However, it is **highly recommended to complete and understand** the homework. **Don't rely on the help features** to get through the homework. Homework problems will be made available via PDF files on my website for those that choose not to use MML.

QUIZZES/ATTENDANCE/GROUP WORK 10%

Occasionally quizzes will be given to assess important topics. Quiz problems will be similar to problems presented in class and homework assignments. There will be a strong correlation between quiz frequency/difficulty and student effort/attitude.

Occasionally there will be attendance quizzes. Occasionally there will be group work assignments. There will be no makeup in-class work. Extra Credit will be offered and included in this category. It is strongly suggested to take advantage of Extra Credit opportunities. Extra Credit will be capped at 5% of Semester Grade.

TESTS 70%

There will be chapter tests consisting of problems similar to problems presented in class, quizzes and homework assignments. There will be no formal test reviews so pay attention in class and take good notes. Cheat sheets and calculators will be allowed. There will be no makeup tests.

FINAL or ONLINE HOMEWORK 20%

The final will be Wednesday December 11th 1:00 – 2:50 p.m. There will be no makeup final. The final will be cumulative. There will be no formal final review, so keep your old tests and quizzes to study from. A cheat sheet and calculator will be allowed. In lieu of the final, students may have their MML average homework score count provided that it is higher than 90% and their test average is higher than 70%. This will be discussed in detail during the first day of class.

INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS

To earn points, you must show the work. I cannot read your mind and can only grade your knowledge by what I see on paper. Show the set-up, work and units as appropriate. Box or circle your answers.

SEMESTER GRADE

Grades are earned and are not awarded. The following scale can be used to determine your grade:

A = 90 – 100% B = 78 – 89% C = **66** – 77% D = 50 – 65% F = 0 – 49%

NOTES and DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Course content may vary from this outline to meet the needs of this particular group
2. Syllabus may be changed at any time at the discretion of the instructor with verbal notice
3. Withdrawals are not automatic – see instructor. You will be withdrawn with a “Y” (withdrawn failing which is counted as an “F” toward your GPA) after the deadline (**Sunday October 6th – last day to withdraw without the instructor's signature**) unless you reach an agreement with the instructor.
4. College Catalog <https://www.gccaz.edu/gcc-catalog> and Student Handbook <https://www.gccaz.edu/student-life/office-student-life/student-handbook> Policies
5. Food and Drink Policy
6. Grievance (i.e. complaining) Policy
7. Behavior Policy (respect, one person talking at a time, **smartphones quiet and away**, etc.). If you are disrupting the learning environment (based on my discretion), you may be asked to leave class and reported to the appropriate Dean.
8. Classroom Atmosphere Policy (engage, ask questions, share ideas, etc.). Be prepared for my sense of humor which includes math jokes and sarcasm.
9. Cheating and Plagiarism Policy (1st offense assessment failure, 2nd offense course withdrawal with grade of “Y”)
10. Special Needs. If you have a documented disability, including a learning disability, and would like to discuss possible accommodations, please contact the GCC Disabilities Resources and Services office at 623.845.3080 or email drsfrontdesk@gccaz.edu.
11. Getting Help

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

1. Come to class every day, prepared and ready to go
2. Have 2 notebooks – 1 for notes and 1 for HW
3. Take good notes and review often
4. Make a good faith effort on your HW
5. Take the tests seriously and prepare – know how to use your calculator – have a good cheat sheet
6. Do your best to get out of the Final
7. Get help early and often
8. Take advantage of extra credit opportunities

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is very important. Quiz, test and final questions will be based on what we cover in class. If you are unable to make class, please e-mail me (in advance if possible). **If you have excessive absences (based on my discretion), you will be withdrawn with a “Y”** (withdrawn failing which is counted as an “F” toward your GPA).

Note: Coming in late or leaving early counts as an absence. Missing the first week, missing 4 classes, missing two exams, and missing the Final are examples of what is considered excessive.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8/19 Syllabus Review Introductions	8/20 Start Chap 4	8/21	8/22
8/26	8/27	8/28	8/29*
9/2 No School Labor Day	9/3 Start Chap 5	9/4	9/5
9/9	9/10	9/11	9/12
9/16*	9/17 Start Chap 6	9/18	9/19
9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
9/30*	10/1 Start Chap 7	10/2	10/3
10/7	10/8	10/9	10/10
10/14*	10/15 Start Chap 10	10/16	10/17
10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24
10/28	10/29	10/30*	10/31 Start Chap 11 Happy Halloween!
11/4	11/5	11/6	11/7
11/11 No School Veterans Day	11/12	11/13	11/14
11/18	11/19	11/20*	11/21
11/25 Start Chap 12	11/26	11/27	11/28 No School Happy Thanksgiving
12/2	12/3*	12/4 Review – Study!!!	12/5 Review – Study!!!
		12/11* Final 1:00 – 2:50 p.m. Good Luck!!!	

* indicates planned test day

BRIAN BIRD'S SCHEDULE

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday*
7:00					
7:30					GCC North Hiking Club and Dual Enrollment Evaluations
8:00	Office Hours* A 122 My Office	Office Hours* A 122 My Office	Office Hours* A 122 My Office	Office Hours* A 122 My Office	
8:30	MAT230 14726 A 111	MAT230 14726 A 111	MAT230 14726 A 111	MAT230 14726 A 111	
9:00					
9:30					
10:00	MAT150 37678 A 111	MAT150 37678 A 111	MAT150 37678 A 111	MAT150 37678 A 111	
10:30					
11:00					
11:30		MAT142 14669 A 111		MAT142 38168 A 111	
12:00	Office Hours* A 122 My Office		Office Hours* A 122 My Office		
12:30					
1:00	MAT120 38001 A 111	MAT120 38001 A 111	MAT120 38001 A 111	MAT120 38001 A 111	
1:30					
2:00					
2:30					

*** Additional Office Hours Available by Appointment**

Sexual Harassment Statement

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it alters working conditions and creates a hostile environment or reasonably interferes with, limits, or deprives a student of the ability to participate in or benefit from any educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment and discrimination in any college education program or activity are prohibited. Sexual Harassment may include hostile environment harassment, sexual assault, inducing incapacitation for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation or dating violence and stalking.

Students should report any discrimination and/or harassment they experience and/or observe to the GCC Office of Student Life in the Student Union. Phone (623) 845-3525.

To view the full Sexual Harassment Policy refer to the Student Handbook, Sexual Harassment Policy for Students (AR 2.4.4) (see also 5.1.8).