MATH 125, Section 491
Fall 2010

Instructor:	Melody Rashidian
Class meets:	Saturday: 8:00 am– 1:20 p.m.
Office Hours:	7:30-8:00 am and 1:20-1:40 pm or by an appointment, room 1403.
Text:	Intermediate Algebra by K. Elayn Martin-Gay (5th edition). (The textbook is enhanced with an access code to MY Math Lab.)
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Course Compass:	www.coursecompass.com
Course ID:	rashidian53236

My teaching philosophy focuses on meeting your needs during this course by providing a stimulation environment, building self-steam, open communication, and practicing a blend of independent and cooperative learning style.

Math 125 – Intermediate Algebra consists of discussions and graded group-learning sessions. Upon successful completion of Intermediate Algebra (Math 125) the student will be able to:

1) Represent and analyze basic functions and their applications using tables, graphs, and equations. Use and interpret function notation in both algebraic and graphical contexts.
2) Write and analyze linear models for functions with constant rate of change. Graph linear equations and interpret slope as a rate of change in real world situations. Model problems involving two or more unknowns by writing and solving systems of equations or inequalities.
3) Formulate and analyze quadratic models, such as projectile motion, revenue functions, problems involving area or the Pythagorean theorem, and applications of conic sections, such as planetary orbits.
4) Apply and interpret exponential models such as population growth and compound interest, and logarithmic scales such as pH and earthquake magnitude.
5) Use exponents and radicals to analyze power function models in applications such as direct and inverse variation and algometry (scaling in Physiology).

Attendance:

- **On time attendance is mandatory** for this class. Roll will be taken at each meeting and you are responsible for being in class each Saturday. On the rare occasion that you are late to class, enter the room quietly and find the seat nearest the door.

Homework:

Exercises and reading questions will be a mixture of traditional and online homework. You will use MyMathLab as an interactive website where you can work on your online assignments. It is your responsibility to have all of the problems correctly completed by the following class meeting. Before the lecture, you may ask question regarding the homework exercises. **Late homework will not be graded and will be counted as ZERO. No make-up homework**.

MyMathLab:

You will receive with your textbook a code to an online website http://www.coursecompass.com where you can complete homework assignments, complete practice exams, watch videos explaining how to do problems, see example problems worked out through computer animations, read the textbook online with direct links to practice problems, get connected with tutors over the phone and much, much more.

Group work

- **Group problem solving** is the primary method of instruction for this class.
- You will work in groups of 3 to 5 each class meeting on an assignment.
- At the end of the class all of the papers will be collected, but **only one paper from each group will be graded.**
- Every one in the group received that score. Each group work assignment is worth five points.
- If you have to leave class early, you will receive a zero point for that day's work.
- You must work in a group of 3 to 5, or your paper will not be graded.
- **Group work cannot be made–up**.
- **I reserve the right to break up groups for any reason**.

Exams and Quizzes

- There will be 6 quizzes and 5 tests. No makeup quizzes or tests will be given.

- **MET** will be on June 5th, at 3:30-5:45. The MET sample test is available online on my webpage. You need to buy the green TCES/MET scantron sheet for the MET from the bookstore.

Classroom Etiquette and Participation:

- Cell phones, pagers and music players must be turned off during class at all times. Phones cannot be used during class (even as a calculator to check your answer). The questions should be addressed to me not to your classmates while lecture is in progress. **There is a zero tolerance policy for disrespectful or disruptive behavior**.
- Neither **food** nor drink is allowed in the classroom with the exception of bottled water.
- Any instance of cheating will be dealt with in accordance with Pierce College policies. You are expected to adhere to the Regulations and Policies listed in the Pierce College Catalog.
- No guests are allowed in class.

Basic of Grading: You grade will be determined by:

Component	percentage
Tests	50%
Quizzes	12%
Assignments	15%
Attendance	3%
MET	20%

- You must get 90-100 overall to get a grade of "A".
  80-89 "B".
  70-79 "C".
  60-69 "D".
- Less than 60% overall earns a grade of "F".

Academic Assistance

Here are some ideas that I have found help students do better in this class.

Homework

- Form a study group with your classmates.
- Do homework everyday, even on weekends.
- Start homework as soon as possible. Rewrite the problem being asked. Place a star (*) next to problems you need help with.

Study Tips

- Study every day for 1 -- 2 hours in a quiet room at home or in the library.
- Review problems that were the most difficult and practice weak areas.
- Read the textbook and create flash cards if needed.
- Write outlines of each chapter including formulas and processes that you need to solve problems.

Note-taking

- Select colored pens or pencils to
  - Sketch a box around definitions, formulas or important concept.
  - Write a reminder note about a key-steps within a problem (works well on homework too)
- You might want to keep a 2-inch margin on the right-hand side of your paper to make notes.