



**MATH 156:** Intermediate Algebra B-STEM  
8139 – 5.0 units – Spring 2022

**When:** Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am – 10:00 am

**Where:** Kunde 104

**Instructor:** Kat Valenzuela

**Email:** [kvalenzuela@santarosa.edu](mailto:kvalenzuela@santarosa.edu)

- Please use proper English and grammar in all emails. Text language, emotions, and emojis are not considered proper English.
- Email will be checked on normal class days.

**Phone:** 707-778-2474

**Office:** Kunde 213

**Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am – 10:00am, Tuesday 7:00 am – 7:30 am, and Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 am – 11:00 am

**Content:** An intermediate algebra course that incorporates the use of graphing technology. Topics include functions and their graphs, equations and inequalities in one variable, systems of equations in two and three variables, exponential and logarithmic functions and equations, and conic sections.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of MATH 150 or MATH 150B or MATH 151 or AB705 placement into Math Tier 1 or higher

**Course Outline of Record:** is available online: go to the SRJC homepage and search for course outline and the type in MATH 156 under the course.

**Required Materials:**

- Textbook: Intermediate Algebra: Concepts and Applications, 10/e. Author(s): Bittinger, Ellenbogen, Johnson. Pearson. I will be teaching the course with the 10th edition of our textbook. If you choose an earlier/different version, it is up to you to reconcile the differences between editions.
- A graphing calculator without a computer algebra system (CAS). You can use any technology you choose to complete the homework; however, that is not a substitution for not understanding the mathematics behind the computations. On the Exams the allowable technology will be specified.
- Canvas will not be used.

**Class Structure:**

- Give yourself the best chance of succeeding by:
  - Meeting the prerequisites
  - Providing a good-faith effort
  - Communicating often and taking the time to formulate good questions
  - Having patience
  - Exhibiting academic integrity
  - Attend class each day, & work on the homework
  - “Visiting” Office Hours
  - Read the text before attempting the homework
  - Know when the due dates for quizzes, & exams
  - Strive to be “impossible to be misunderstood”

*This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance to what/how/when topics will be covered and assessed during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, I reserve the right to modify, supplement, or make changes to the syllabus as needed. Your enrollment in this MATH 156 class indicates your agreement to all of the policies in the syllabus and all SRJC student-related policies.*

- Realizing that your work will be graded in accordance with a college-level, STEM-based math class
- Our class is a place reserved for learning. Being kind, open-minded, respectful, patient, and tolerant are qualities conducive to learning. It is expected that you will be prepared to learn and exhibit these behaviors.
- It is critical that students work on homework frequently throughout the term.
- The written exams in our class will be graded according to mathematical standards that accompany a college-level, STEM-based math class.
- When developing a logical argument or asking a question, please make it a goal to be “impossible to be misunderstood” and take the care and time to formulate good questions, before asking them.
- Read all the emails, homework, quizzes, exams, and any communications you have from me carefully.
- This class will be utilizing technology; however, that is not a substitution for not being able to utilize mathematical notation correctly, appropriately, and efficiently.
- It is critical that students work on homework frequently throughout the semester.
- No active (ear, cell, smart) phones or computers are allowed during class. Please turn them off and put them away.
- My goal is to have a typical day in class go as follows: We will discuss a new topic for a while, and then, time permitting, work on some exercises together. We’ll take a break and then do the same thing for the remaining time. You will likely need a pencil and paper every day in class. You are expected to work on homework outside of class almost every day—as often as you need—in order to succeed in the class. Your success depends greatly on the amount of work that you put into the class.
- The quizzes, exams and final will be comprised of topics we discuss in class AND the assigned homework so, PLEASE COME TO CLASS AND KEEP UP WITH THE HOMEWORK (including readings).

### Academic Integrity

All work is to be original; verifiable plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will result in recording an F for the class or being dropped from the class. Students who plagiarize or cheat may also be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for discipline sanction, in cases of egregious violation.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Please contact me privately regarding concerns about accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly. DRD’s link: <https://drd.santarosa.edu>

**Your Responsibility:** A college-level, STEM-based math class requires a great amount of discipline and continual self-monitoring. In order to be successful each student is expected to:

1. Attend office hours regularly.
2. Be respectful of your fellow classmates. You will be asked to leave the class if you are not ready to learn.
3. We will listen respectfully when someone else is talking, we will be respectful and polite even when we disagree with another’s viewpoint.
4. Be an active participant during class.
5. Quietly listen to lecture and actively take notes.
6. Class is a place reserved for learning. Being kind, open-minded, respectful, patient, and tolerant are qualities conducive to learning. It is expected that you are prepared to learn and exhibit these

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behaviors.

7. Read each section in the book before attempting the homework. You will be surprised how much you understand in class, and feels easier when you do this!
8. It is critical that students work on homework frequently during the semester. Students are expected to work on homework exercises out of the text.
9. This class will be utilizing technology; however, that is not a substitution for not being able to utilize mathematical notation correctly, appropriately, and efficiently.
10. The written exams in our class will be graded according to mathematical standards that accompany a college-level, STEM-based math class. Please keep that in mind when you are writing up your exams.
11. When developing a logical argument or asking a question, please make it a goal to be “impossible to be misunderstood” and take the care and time to formulate good questions, before asking them.
12. Read all the emails, homework, quizzes, exams, and any communications you have from me carefully.
13. Know how to gain access to the Mathematics & Computer Lab, & office hours are and visit as often as you need or want.
14. Review previous sections. Continual studying is much more rewarding and less stressful than cramming.
15. Study early and study often!
16. Check your email regularly!
17. Be aware of the date of the quizzes, exams, and final.
18. Problems you got wrong or partial credit on from your exams and quizzes is your responsibility to understand why. Try to work the problem out at home first and if you are still struggling come talk to me if you have questions.
19. Be patience with yourself and keep at it. Persistence, and hard work leads to success. You may need to find your own mental fortitude.

*Fortitude Definition:*

*strength of mind that enables a person to encounter danger or bear pain or adversity with courage, strength.*

20. Come talk to me for any reason! If you are having trouble, problems with something or cannot make class let me know as soon as you can. I am more willing to help you when you let me know early and have an open communication with me. I am less likely to accommodate circumstances when things arise at the last minute.
21. Students are required to have a text for our course. Our text is available nowadays in many different forms; e.g., as a traditional textbook, in electronic format, etc. You are welcome to choose the one that works best for you; you may have a preference or there may be cost savings with one format versus another.
22. I will be teaching the course with the 10th edition of our textbook. If you choose an earlier/different version, it is up to you to reconcile the differences between editions.
23. Preparedness: AB705 eliminates the requirement of taking a prerequisite course, in our case Intermediate Algebra. However; students are responsible for this prerequisite material. You are responsible for knowing the concepts taught in Intermediate Algebra and Beginning Algebra. In order to be successful, you will need to spend extra time outside of class reviewing the prerequisite material you are missing, on top of the material related to this course.

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**Late Work:** Quizzes, exams, and the final will **NOT** be taken late. NO EXCEPTIONS!

**Attendance:** Attending class regularly greatly increases the likelihood of success in the course; however, I believe that adult college students know this (or, are learning this), and will make their own choice regarding attendance. There are no points associated with attendance. I am required to follow College Policy regarding attendance: A student may be dropped from any course when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10% constitutes an "excessive" number of absences for this course) of the total hours of class time. Students who fail to attend the first-class meeting may be dropped from the course. Students who enroll in the course and do not attend the first two class meetings are declared "No-Show" and will be dropped from the course.

### MATH 156 GRADE BREAKDOWN

Activity (NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED; ALLOWED RESOURCES WILL BE DESCRIBED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH ACTIVITY)	Points Possible	Your Points	Your Cumulative Points	Cumulative Points Possible	Your Cumulative Percentage
Quiz #1 Thursday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>	50			50	
Exam #1 Thursday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	100			150	
Quiz #2 Thursday, March 31 <sup>st</sup>	50			200	
Exam #2 Thursday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>	100			300	
Quiz #3 Thursday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	50			350	
Take out lowest Quiz Score	-50			300	
<i>Final Exam Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 am – 9:45 am</i>	150			450	

#### Grading Policy

Letter grades will be assigned on a scale no stricter than the following:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	0 to 59

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## Activity Details

### Homework Quizzes (Three at 50 points each; only two count toward your grade)

These quizzes will be held in class. No quiz make-ups; only given during scheduled time. These quizzes will be written assuming you have completed the homework that is relevant to the quiz. No notes or homework or smart phones or neighbors are allowed to use on the quiz, but a page of notes will be provided to you prior to the quiz for your review. The same page of notes will be provided to you during the quiz as well. Use of calculators will be specified prior to the quiz. Quizzes are usually returned, graded, no later than one week of the quiz date. Students are asked to review their graded quizzes and wait at least 48 hours to discuss questions and ask for further feedback on graded quizzes.

### Exams (Two at 100 points each)

These will be taken in our classroom on Thursday of week 7 and week 13. You will be notified of the exam topics and the materials you can use on the exams prior to each exam. These exams may only be taken at a different time with advanced notice and must be taken prior to the original scheduled date. Exams are usually graded and returned no later than one week of the exam date. Students are asked to review their graded exams and wait at least 48 hours to discuss questions and ask for further feedback on graded exams.

**Note:** in case of an emergency immediately before (only) one of these exams, it is possible to use a portion of your Final Exam percentage (only the topics on the Final Exam, as determined by me, that are associated with the exam that you missed), provided that:

- Sans the exam you miss, you have a passing grade going into the Final Exam.
- You have regular attendance and have been providing a good-faith effort in the class, as determined by me.
- The distribution of points according to topics may be different on your Final Exam as opposed to the Standard Final Exam (below).

### Final Exam (150 points)

Be prepared for a mostly cumulative final exam. It will be written to take about 2.5 hours and will be given at the College-designated time. You will be notified of the exam topics and the materials you can use on the final prior to the final. The final can only be taken at a different time with advanced notice and must be taken prior to the original scheduled date. Final exams are not returned to the students; however, you are welcome to come by during the following semester to review your final exam.

**Note:** in case of an emergency immediately before the Final Exam, it is possible to take an Incomplete Grade for the class, provided that you have a passing grade going into the Final Exam, and take the Final during a subsequent semester.

- If you use your smartphone/device during class, I will deduct points from your cumulative score in the gradebook.

### Tentative Schedule

(Note that the ideal schedule is just that—ideal. Our actual pace may cause us to run a little behind or ahead of the ideal schedule throughout the semester... hopefully we stay ahead more often than behind!)

<b>Week Number</b>	<b>Date (Week Beginning...)</b>	<b>Section Number and Title. Read these sections before they are covered.</b>
1	January 17	<i>Tuesday: NO CLASS</i> 2.2: Functions
2	January 24	2.6: The Algebra of Functions 2.3: Linear Functions: Slope, Graphs, and Models 2.4: Another Look at Linear Graphs
3	January 31	2.5: Equations of Lines and Modeling 3.1: Systems of Equations in Two Variables 3.2: Solving by Substitution or Elimination 3.3: Solving Applications: Systems of Two Equations
4	February 7	<i>Thursday: Quiz #1</i> 4.4: Inequalities in Two Variables 3.6: Elimination Using Matrices 3.4: Systems of Equations in Three Variables
5	February 14	<i>Thursday: NO CLASS</i> 3.5: Solving Applications: Systems of Three Equations 4.1: Inequalities and Applications
6	February 21	4.2: Intersections, Unions, and Compound Inequalities 4.3: Absolute-Value Equations and Inequalities 6.1: Rational Expressions and Functions: Multiplying and Dividing
7	February 28	<i>Thursday: Exam #1</i> 6.2: Rational Expressions and Functions: Adding and Subtracting
8	March 7	6.3: Complex Rational Expressions 6.4: Rational Equations
9	March 14	6.5: Solving Applications Using Rational Equations 6.8: Formulas, Applications, and Variation 7.6: Solving Radical Equations
	March 21	<i>Spring Break NO CLASS</i>
10	March 28	<i>Thursday: Quiz #2</i> 8.1: Quadratic Equations 8.2: The Quadratic Formula 8.3: Studying Solutions of Quadratic Equations 8.4: Applications Involving Quadratic Equations
11	April 4	8.5: Equations Reducible to Quadratic 8.7: More About Graphing Quadratic Functions 8.8: Problem Solving and Quadratic Functions
12	April 11	8.9: Polynomial Inequalities and Rational Inequalities 9.2: Exponential Functions 9.3: Logarithmic Functions
13	April 18	<i>Thursday: Exam #2</i> 9.4: Properties of Logarithmic Functions 9.5: Common Logarithms and Natural Logarithms
14	April 25	9.6: Solving Exponential Equations and Logarithmic Equations 9.7: Applications of Exponential Functions and Logarithmic Functions
15	May 2	7.7: The distance Formula, the Midpoint Formula, and

		Other Applications 10.1: Conic Sections: Parabolas and Circles 10.2: Conic Sections: Ellipses
16	May 9	<i>Thursday: Quiz #3</i> 10.3: Conic Sections: Hyperbolas 10.4: Nonlinear systems of Equations
17	May 16	<i>Review</i>
Finals	May 23	<i>Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 am – 9:45 am</i>

**Homework Schedule  
Math 156 Spring 2022**

**Ch 2**

**2.2:** 13, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 43, 45, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 63, 65, 67, 69, 85, 87, 89, 93, 97, 99, 109, 110, 112, 113, 120  
**2.6:** 17, 19, 20, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 45, 49, 51, 53, 57, 59, 61 – 66, 77, 82  
**2.3:** 21, 25, 27, 29, 43, 45, 51, 67, 73, 77, 79, 81, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95  
**2.4:** 17, 21, 27, 37, 43, 45, 51, 59, 75, 77  
**2.5:** 11, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 53, 55, 61, 63, 67, 69, 71, 74, 75, 77, 85, 87, 89, 90, 92, 108, 110

**Ch 3**

**3.1:** 31, 33, 35, 77, 79  
**3.2:** 21, 35, 51, 79, 81, 83  
**3.3:** 21, 25, 29, 35, 37, 41, 47, 49  
**4.4:** 43, 47, 49, 51, 55, 69  
**3.6:** *Solve by hand* 7, 9, 11, 17; *use a calculator to solve* 13, 15, 19  
**3.4:** *use matrices to solve* 15, 17, 21, 25, 31, 49, 51, 53; *solve by hand* 55  
**3.5:** 13, 17, 19, 21, 25

**Ch 4**

**4.1:** 41, 47, 49, 51, 59, 79, 81, 85, 90  
**4.2:** 21, 23, 25, 63, 65, 67, 69, 83, 89, 91, 101, 117  
**4.3:** 41, 43, 45, 51, 55, 73, 75, 77, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 99, 102, 113, 115

**Ch 6**

**6.1:** 11, 13, 29, 33, 39, 49, 53, 61, 63, 69, 71, 73, 75  
**6.2:** 21, 23, 31, 37, 39, 45, 51, 55, 67, 69  
**6.3:** 11, 19, 23, 27, 47, 53, 83  
**6.4:** 13, 26, 27, 39, 45, 51, 53, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69  
**6.5:** 19, 21, 25, 33, 35, 39  
**6.8:** 15, 17, 19, 21, 27, 33

**Ch 7**

**7.6:** 13, 21, 29, 31, 49, 51, 53, 55

**Ch 8**

**8.1:** 31, 33, 35, 37, 51, 53, 55, 67, 69, 71, 73  
**8.2:** 17, 31, 39, 41, 43, 45  
**8.3:** 13, 15, 17, 21, 27, 29, 31, 33, 37, 41, 51  
**8.4:** 9, 11, 13, 19, 23, 29, 33, 43  
**8.5:** 11, 15, 17, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37  
**8.7:** 11, 13, 15, 17, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 41  
**8.8:** 11, 13, 15, 35, 37, 39, 41  
**8.9:** 9, 11, 21, 27, 29, 31, 37, 45, 47, 49, 73, 75

**Ch 9**

**9.1:** 29, 39, 45, 51, 55, 85, 86  
**9.2:** 11, 17, 25, 39, 43, 45  
**9.3:** 13, 17, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 37, 49, 57, 59, 61, 63, 67, 73, 77, 79 – 89 (odd), 105, 107, 108 – 112 (odd)  
**9.4:** 11, 15, 21, 25, 31, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 89, 91  
**9.5:** 21, 27, 29, 39, 41, 45  
**9.6:** 15, 19, 25, 27, 37, 45 – 65 (odd), 77 – 93 (odd)  
**9.7:** 25, 27, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43

**Ch 7 (again)**

**7.7:** 51, 53, 59, 63, 65, 69, 73

**Ch 10**

**10.1:** 15, 23, 29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 53, 57, 59, 61, 63  
**10.2:** 11, 13, 17, 21, 27, 29, 31, 33  
**10.3:** 7, 11, 15, 17, 21, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33  
**10.4:** 9, 11, 21, 27, 29, 31, 37, 41