Syllabus
Intermediate Algebra

Course: MA 100, 4 Credits , Section 55: eLearning
Term: Winter 2016
Assistant Professor: Dr. Amy E. Barnsley
E-Mail: abarnsle@nmu.edu. Expect no more than 24 hour response time, except on weekends.
Office Phone: 227-1608 (Don't leave messages. It's better to email)
Office Hours & Location: Jamrich Room 2210, Mon & Wed 12:00- 1:50 pm, Thur 9-11am. Other times by arrangement.
Required Supplies: Aleks 360 access code, 18 weeks Higher Education, ebook included,
Optional Textbook: Beginning and Intermediate Algebra, 4e, Miller, O'Neill, Hyde

Websites for this class:
Educat: educat.nmu.edu Course documents, gradebook, discussion forums
Aleks: **www.aleks.com**   Homework, computation quizzes, practice exams, exams, ebook
Instructor website: http://www.amybarnsleymath.wordpress.com Math content

Course Description: The study of polynomials, graphing, algebraic fractions, radicals, lines and linear equations and inequalities, quadratic and exponential equations and systems of equations. Applications are emphasized.

Course Goals and Purpose: This course aims to help students build a secure foundation in algebra skills through meaningful contextual problems and situations and to develop skills that will help students succeed in a college level math class.

Student Learning Outcomes for Intermediate Algebra:
POLYNOMIALS AND FACTORING
Perform operations and factor polynomial expressions
Factor sum and difference of cubes
Factor quadratic equations when leading coefficient is not 1

RATIONAL AND RADICAL EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS
Evaluate, perform operations and simplify rational expressions
Evaluate, perform operations and simplify radical expressions
Solve equations with rational expressions
Solve radical equations
Apply complex numbers

LINEAR EQUATIONS AND INEQUALITIES
Apply concepts of sets (unions, intersections, interval notation, set notation, Venn diagrams)
Solve and graph linear absolute value equations
Solve systems of linear equations
Solve and graph linear inequalities

QUADRATIC EQUATIONS AND FUNCTIONS
Solve quadratic equations by factoring
Solve quadratic equations by completing the square
Solve quadratic equations by quadratic formula
Solve quadratic equations by square root method
Graph and interpret quadratic functions

Graph and interpret linear functions
Graph and interpret square root functions
Graph and interpret absolute value functions

APPLICATIONS
Solve applied problems. To include, but not limited to; joint and combined variation, quadratic applications, basic geometry and basic exponential problems.

Prerequisites: Passing grade in MA 090 or satisfactory score on math placement exam.

Technical skills: Student must be able to navigate websites including Educat, Aleks and the instructor's website. They must use and check their @nmu.edu email daily. They must know how to use a scanner to scan a multiple page document into one PDF and post this document into Educat. Camscanner is an app for smartphones. The library on campus has a great scanner.

Technology requirements: Computer with internet access, access to scanner, scientific calculator. Does not have to be a graphing calculator.

Grades: Grades are based on the following scale

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

Your grade has the following components:

Educat Discussion Forums	5%
Educat Reading Quizzes	5%
Aleks Homework	10%
Aleks Computation Quizzes	5%
Practice Exams (4)	5%
Exams (4)	40%
Final Exam	30%
Extra Credit Aleks Pie	5%

Educat discussion forum: There will be a weekly discussion forum in Educat, available each Monday. Each week is worth 20 points. Points will be given based on quality. All discussion forum posts and email interactions should be polite and civil. Remember that the mathematical background varies from student to student. What may seem obvious to one student is not to another. Spelling and grammar will not be graded. Responses should stay on topic. If needed a new thread should be started. See the document called Discussion Forum Guidelines.

Educat reading quizzes: Short quizzes covering the sections in the book. There is one quiz for every lesson. They are due daily. The ebook is available in when students are logged into www.aleks.com or you bought the optional physical textbook.

Aleks Homework: Homework is done in Aleks. You have unlimited attempts until the due date and time. The Aleks program will not allow you to work beyond the due date and time.

Aleks Computation Quizzes: One attempt. The Aleks program will not allow you to work beyond the due date and time.

Practice Exams: Take in Aleks program (two attempts). Show work for every problem on your own paper. Number every problem, and keep your work tidy. Your written work must be scanned as one document and uploaded into Educat. Only upload the work from your best attempt. I will grade your practice exam and give feedback in Educat. The exam will not be available until you upload your written work and it is graded.

Exams: Take in Aleks program (one attempt). Show work for every problem on your own paper. Number every problem, and keep your work tidy. Your written work must be scanned as one document and uploaded into Educat. I will grade your exam and give feedback in Educat. For written work (Practice exams, exams, and final exams) you are graded not only on correctness, but also on clarity of work. If I can't read your writing, then a correct answer **will not** get you full credit. You must show all steps. Just giving the answer will not earn full credit. Again, you must show all work. Word problems can often be solve by just "thinking" about it. In this class you must use algebra and show all work to earn credit.

Practice final exam: A practice final exam will be offered April 22, in Jamrich 1318, any two hour period between 11 am – 5pm. You are highly encouraged to take the practice exam before taking the final exam.

Final exam: Must be done in person with the instructor or with a pre-arranged proctor. This is not done in the Aleks program. It will be a paper and pencil exam. The highest score from the practice exam and the final exam will be used as your final exam score. You must earn at least 60% on the final exam to earn a passing grade in the class.

Math Tutoring Room: Extra help is available for free. Tutors are available Monday-Friday 9 am- 4 pm to help with questions in West Science Room 3810. Study groups with classmates are encouraged.

Disability needs: If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock Building (227-1700). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines. Here is the website for disability services: http://www.nmu.edu/disabilityservices/node/1

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to do their own work and follow the university academic honesty policy. This policy can be found in the student handbook. See link here: http://www.nmu.edu/dso/studenthandbook

Important dates:

Drop: Last day to drop a class with no course record is January 22, 5pm. Drop procedure: http://www.nmu.edu/records/adddropprocedure

Withdrawals: Last day for course withdrawal is March 25, 5pm. I will recommend withdrawal for any student earning below 60%. A W grade and an F grade have the same effect on your full time status. The difference is that an F grade hurts your GPA, but a W grade does not. It always benefits you to get a W, instead of an F. Withdrawal procedure: http://www.nmu.edu/records/node/19