

May 2011

Welcome to Online Math 96!

Please immediately reply to this letter by e-mailing me at cnaught@inverhills.edu to inform me that you received it. If I do not get a reply I will be contacting you by phone or e-mail.

This is an online Topics in Intermediate Algebra math course. This course requires substantial work done outside of class at a fast pace. Please be prepared to take tests online once a week and do homework (HW) either online or from the textbook or both. You will be expected to complete HW activities that must be turned in to me. **These HW activities can only be submitted via fax or through the dropbox on D2L, so make sure you have access to a fax machine or scanner.** The Final Exam for Math 96 is a paper-pencil test that must be completed on campus, unless you can arrange a proctor to give you the exam. If you choose to use a proctor, then you must give me their contact information well in advance of the test.

The math software that allows you to access tests, HW and other resources (like video lectures, practice tests, etc.) is called MyMathLab. In preparation for the course, **please purchase a MyMathLab access code as soon as possible.** You can either purchase MyMathLab at the bookstore shrink-wrapped to our textbook: *Beginning and Intermediate Algebra*, 4th edition by Elayn Martin-Gay, published by Pearson/Addison-Wesley. Or you can purchase just the MyMathLab access code at www.coursecompass.com and use the multimedia textbook that is available through MyMathLab. A hard copy of the textbook purchased at the bookstore will cost more, but it is portable and can be taken anywhere and used in the future. If you purchase just the MyMathLab access code, it will be much cheaper but the multimedia textbook can only be accessed with an internet connection and you will not have access to it after this course is over. You will also need a scientific calculator, like a TI-30XII.

Also, please make sure that you are comfortable being in a completely online class. You will need to take much more responsibility for your own learning than you would in a more traditionally taught class. **You need to make sure that you have the necessary time available and the necessary motivation to devote to this course. You can expect to spend at least 9 hours per week on math.** There are a variety of resources available to help you with the course material, including video lectures created by me, examples in the textbook, guided sample problems, video lectures and animations in MyMathLab, online office hours, and tutors in the Peer Tutor Center.

This course will be available to you beginning May 15th. As soon as possible, please log on to Desire2Learn (D2L). If you have never logged on to D2L before, there are login instructions on the Inver Hills webpage. To activate any student accounts (including your I-net account, go.inverhills.edu e-mail account or D2L), go to www.inverhills.edu and click on Inver Login found on the left side of the page. In the drop box you will see "Activate student accounts." Follow the directions listed. If you

have any troubles you can visit the computer lab on the first floor of the Library and have an assistant step you through the activation process. After you have logged into D2L, please click on the link for this course and click on the link in the announcements that says “**Read Me First.**” You will find a checklist there that can assist you with all that you need to do to prepare for and succeed in this course.

I strongly recommend that you begin looking at the course material as soon as possible. **The first due date is June 5th.** Under the Content area of D2L, you will find a copy of the syllabus and weekly schedule. You will also find video lectures for each chapter and activities for each chapter. The first chapter test is a paper-pencil test found on D2L, but all of the other chapter tests will be done on MyMathLab. Once you have registered on MyMathLab, you will be able to access the chapter tests and can begin taking them at any time. I strongly recommend that you purchase your textbook and MyMathLab access code prior to the beginning of the course, register onto MyMathLab (go to www.coursecompass.com), explore the resources available on MyMathLab, and take a look at some of the tests or HW. More detailed instructions for how to register on MyMathLab will be found in the “Read Me First” document on D2L. The course id number that you will need during the MyMathLab registration process is: **naughton64552.** I would also recommend that you watch the Video Lectures that I have created for Sequences and Series and look over the HW and test for Sequences and Series. This topic is not covered in the textbook, so you will have to learn the material by watching the Video Lectures on D2L. All of the video lectures and activities can be found under the Content area of D2L.

You will need to have a go.inverhills.edu e-mail account so that I can contact you throughout the semester. You can activate this e-mail account by going to the Inver Login page and clicking on “Activate student accounts.” **Please send me an e-mail from your go.inverhills.edu e-mail account** to let me know that you have received this letter and have been successful accessing MyMathLab, D2L, and all of the course materials. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to e-mail me at cnaught@inverhills.edu.

Before the first day of class, please do the following:

- 1) Go to the bookstore and purchase your textbook with *MyMathLab* software (they should be shrink-wrapped together) or purchase just your *MyMathLab* access code at www.coursecompass.com
- 2) Register yourself on *MyMathLab* using the student access code provided in your software kit and the course ID: **naughton64552.** Click on the Installation Wizard the first time to install the appropriate plug-ins for *MyMathLab* to work.
- 3) Activate your *go.inverhills.edu* email account: used for communication with instructor
- 4) Activate your *Desire to Learn (D2L)* account: used for accessing course materials and grades
- 5) Click on the “Read Me First” document on D2L and complete the checklist.
- 6) E-mail me at cnaught@inverhills.edu.

I'm glad to have you in this class. I hope you are successful. Please post to the D2L discussion board with content or course questions. You can also e-mail me directly with any questions related specifically to you.

Sincerely,

Carrie Naughton