Math 120 Intermediate Algebra
May 2011 Syllabus

Goals. By the end of the course, you will have an understanding of and an ability to use symbolic, graphic, numeric, and verbal representations of functions in order to model real world situations. During this course, you will improve your ability to solve problems, improve your ability to assign meaning to and formally manipulate symbols, practice clear and precise communication, and learn from a variety of resources.

Text. *Functions and Change: A Modeling Approach to College Algebra*, 3rd Edition, by Bruce Crauder, Benny Evans, and Alan Noell, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-73132-9. This course will cover the entire book except for sections 7.1 and 7.3. *Student Solutions Manual with Keystroke Guide* (ISBN-13: 9780618643035) is an optional resource.

Instructor. David Housman is an applied mathematician who has done research in game theory and mathematics education. He is often in his office. Feel free to stop by any time his office door is open, or contact him for an appointment. His office is SC 117, email address is dhousman@goshen.edu, web page is www.goshen.edu/~dhousman, office telephone is 574-535-7405, and home telephone is 574-875-0339.

Class. This is an independent study (readings). During May term, we will negotiate a one hour meeting most class days. If the course is not completed by the end of May term, we will negotiate other meeting times. These meeting times are for you to ask questions and for me to provide feedback on homework assignments and exams.

For each section, you should actively read the text and solve a selection of odd numbered exercises, whose answers are given near the back of the text and whose solutions are available in the solution manual. I will assign a small number of even numbered exercises for you to solve and for me to grade and provide feedback.

Exams. There will be three midterm exams: exam 1 will cover chapters 1 & 2, exam 2 will cover chapters 3 & 4, and exam 3 will cover chapters 5 – 7. There will be a comprehensive final exam, too.

Grade. Your course grade will be based on homework assignments (30%), midterm exams (15% each), and the final exam (25%). Your final exam grade will replace one midterm exam grade if by doing so it will increase your semester average. Final numerical averages will be translated into letter grades in the following manner.

Minimum Score	94	90	86	82	78	74	70	66	62	58	0
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F

For example, if your homework grade is 95, your chapter exam scores are 80, 70, and 92, and your final exam grade is 85, then the lowest midterm exam score 70 would be replaced with 85, and your course average would be $(.30)(95) + (.15)(80) + (.15)(85) + (.15)(92) + (.25)(85) = 88.3$, which is a B+.