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**Rachelle M Ankney\*** (ankney@gmail.com), 3225 W Foster Ave, Chicago, IL 60625. *A beginning college class reviews basic algebra by way of ancient and medieval Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, and Islam.* Preliminary report.

Last semester at North Park University, we ventured a different approach to teaching remedial algebra at the college level. We offered the course “Intermediate Algebra” as a history of algebra course. Chronologically, we presented linear equations, quadratics, systems of equations, square and cube roots, and other topics using translations of and commentaries on ancient Egyptian papyri up through medieval Chinese mathematical classics. The second half of the semester, we explored more complex algebra ideas by studying individuals or schools of mathematics in medieval India, China, Iraq, Egypt, and Iran. Finally, we discussed the transmission of these wonderful ideas to the west. Our hope in offering Intermediate Algebra this way was to turn it into a college-level course without increasing the difficulty of the mathematics (and thus defeating the purpose of remediation). We also hoped to interest students who are attracted to the human side of mathematics and help those students become more open to mathematics in general. This talk will give the preliminary findings of our venture. (Received September 04, 2007)