

VIDYA SWAMINATHAN

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MATH 125, INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

SECTION # 4485, M,W 4:30-7:05 pm

Room: MSA-202

OFFICE: MSB-222, MSB-217

TUTORING HRS: M,W: 1-3pm, 4-4:30pm, 7:05-7:25pm

FALL 2015 SYLLABUS

This course is the prerequisite for transfer-level math courses. It is a further development of the algebra skills you acquired in elementary algebra, with the added topics of negative and rational exponents, systems of linear equations in three variables, complex rational expressions, complex numbers, and conic sections. This class presents the important concept of function with a focus on the characteristics and properties of linear and quadratic functions in detail, and the introduction of inverse, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Problem-solving skills are further developed. It is your opportunity to improve your mathematical knowledge and skill so that you can succeed in the mathematics courses for your major. The prerequisite for this course is a satisfactory score on the Intermediate Algebra Placement test, or Math 115 or Math 118 with a grade of "C" or better.

TEXTBOOK: Intermediate Algebra, 11th Edition, by Lial, Hornsby, and McGinnis

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is essential to student success in math. Coming late to class is disruptive to your classmates, and is not acceptable. If you miss more than two classes, I may drop you from the course. Tardiness is counted as an absence. If you need to be late or miss a class, please let me know, preferably by email and before the class.

HOMEWORK: Homework will be collected throughout the semester. Homework should be completed on a daily basis to stay current with the material. Late homework will not be accepted. The purpose of homework is to help you learn the material in the course. Textbook homework will be graded for completeness and correctness. Just giving the answer does not count as doing the problem. You **MUST** show your work to receive credit. In general, odd problems will be assigned so that you can check your answers. I expect you to work through the problems and bring your homework to tutoring hours with your questions.

QUIZZES & CLASS WORK: Quizzes will be given throughout the semester, and will test your understanding of the homework problems. You will need to do the homework thoroughly and completely to do well on the quizzes. Class work, or in-class assignments are designed to further sharpen your skills, and cover some of the harder homework problems. Quizzes and class work cannot be made up.

EXAMS: There will be three exams. See the schedule for the date and coverage of each exam. All exams are to be taken on time. If the absence is excused, the value of the final exam will be increased by the value of the missed exam. In order to be excused from taking the exam on time, the instructor must grant prior approval. If the absence is unexcused, the exam score will be ZERO. If a second exam is missed, it will be recorded as a ZERO.

FINAL EXAM: There will be a departmental, comprehensive final exam. The exam consists of 40 questions and you will have two hours to take the final exam. Check your schedule for the time and date of this exam.

CELL PHONES: Please, no text messaging in class. Turn the cell phone to silent mode during class, so that other students are not disrupted.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: I encourage students with disabilities, to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services located in Student Services Building (SSB 320), phone 310-287-4450.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Letters can be written for those students who receive an "A" in the course. See LOR handout. Please allow instructor two weeks to complete the letter. No last minute letters.

POLICY ON STUDENT CONDUCT: Pursuant to West Los Angeles College's "Standards of Student Conduct", all forms of cheating and plagiarism are absolutely forbidden. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students and the college, policies on academic integrity are strictly enforced. Students should read WLAC's publication on student conduct on cheating & plagiarism outlined in the College Catalog or at http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_Catalog08-10_Policies41-53.pdf

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Select and use appropriate algebraic techniques to solve a wide variety of equations and systems of equations
- Analyze, model, and solve application problems including those involving variation
- Construct and analyze graphs of functions, inequalities, and conic sections

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 11th	Last day to drop without appearing on record
November 20th	Last day to drop with a "W"

Instructor's Notes:

1. Because of the high volume of material covered in this course, class time is NOT allocated for review except for material from the previous lecture. Please, take advantage of the FREE tutors in HLRC.
2. If you find that the class is moving too fast, please consult the instructor as soon as possible.

Evaluation/Grading

Class work - 15% of grade

These may be quizzes, worksheets, or group projects, and may be given any time during the class period, on any class day except when a test is scheduled. There will be NO MAKEUPS for this work, but copies of handouts will be available while supplies last.

In-Class Tests (three) - 40% of grade

You will be given review topics for each exam. There are no make-up exams, however for **excused absences**, your final exam score will be used to replace the exam score.

Final Exam - 30% of grade

This is a department-wide 40-question multiple-choice test that focuses on manipulative skills. Bring a scantron form and #2 pencils. A sample "practice" test will be distributed before the actual final exam for you to study with.

Homework - 15% of grade

Late homework will not be accepted. See the schedule of assignments for more details.

Incompletes: Please note that "Incomplete" grades are extremely rare. They may only be considered if a student is passing the class with a C or better on the final drop date and is unable, due to an emergency, to complete the course as scheduled. Otherwise, if you decide you cannot finish the course with a satisfactory grade, it is your responsibility to withdraw officially, on or before November 20, 2015.

Homework	15%
Quizzes	15%
Tests (3)	40%
Cumulative Departmental Final	30%

Grading will be no stricter than:

100%-90% = A, 89%-80% = B, 79%-70% = C, 69%-60% =D, 60% or less = F

Math 125 General Instructor Notes:

1. Attendance is so important that you should consider another section of the same course if you will miss more than three meetings. Even coming late or leaving early will put your progress in great jeopardy. I count tardiness as an absence. Four absences may VERY LIKELY result in being dropped from the class.
2. Having a textbook is a MUST. For those of you waiting for an online order, I suggest that you make use of the reserve copies in the library ASAP to keep up with the homework on a daily basis.
3. Homework will be collected in large batches; therefore **time management is essential** to complete the assignment by the due date.
4. Each student should **review the material before attempting the homework**. Plan to dedicate at least 2 hours outside of class for each in-class hour. You surely need much more when it comes to exams.
5. There are no make-up exams or quizzes.
6. Testing policy: closed book, closed notes, and no calculators.
7. There is no extra credit.
8. Your grade will not be curved. Your grade is calculated by a weighted average. “H” stands for homework average, “Q” stands for quiz and class work average, “E” stands for exam average, and “F” stands for final exam score.
$$\text{Grade} = .15(H) + .15(Q) + .4(E) + .3(F)$$
9. Studying hard GENERALLY results in a good grade, but NEVER expect a good grade if you don't study enough.
10. I will work hard to provide you a STRONG background to ENJOY the next math course.

Tips On Making the Most Out of Homework:

1. Understand the Purpose of Homework: Homework assignments are given to help you to learn the material in the class.
2. Do the Assignment Promptly: You should always do the assignment as soon after the lecture as possible while the lecture is still fresh in your mind.
3. Review: Go back over the lecture and textbook for each section and review any examples that are worked out to make sure that you understand the ideas from that section. Often there will be a similar problem in the notes and/or text that can help you to get started!
4. Read/Follow the Directions: Make sure that you read and follow all the directions for both the homework set and the individual problems.
5. Check Your Work: Check your answers with the answers in the back of the book. Often times, students have solved a problem correctly, but their answer differs with that of the book. Then there is more work to do, manipulate your answer until you can bring it to the final form.

Math 125 General Schedule – Subject to change by Instructor

Week		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs
1	8/31, 9/2	1.1-2.1		2.2-2.5	
2	9/7, 9/9	HOLIDAY		2.6-3.1	
3	9/14, 9/16	3.2-3.5		3.6-4.2	
4	9/21, 9/23	5.1-5.3		5.4-6.2	
5	9/28, 9/30	6.3-7.1		EXAM 1	
6	10/5, 10/7	7.1-7.3		7.5-7.6	
7	10/12, 10/14	8.1-8.2		8.3-8.5	
8	10/19, 10/21	8.6-8.7		9.1-9.3	
9	10/26, 10/28	9.4-9.6		9.6-9.7	
10	11/2, 11/4	EXAM 2		10.1-10.2	
11	11/9, 11/11	10.3-10.4		HOLIDAY	
12	11/16, 11/18	10.5-10.6		10.6	
13	11/23, 11/25	11.1		11.2-11.3	
14	11/30, 12/2	11.3-11.4		12.1, 12.4	
15	12/7, 12/9	EXAM 3		REVIEW	
16	12/14	FINALS WEEK			
		FINAL: DECEMBER 14th 4:30-6:30pm			