Course: Elementary & Intermediate Algebra (Math 123A-4478), Spring 2015

This is the first semester of a 3-semester combined Elementary and Intermediate Algebra course. The entry level for 123A is the same as Math 115 or Math 117. The exit level for 123C is the same as Math 125 or Math 128.

Meeting time & Location: MW 7:15 PM - 9:20 PM, MSA-104
Instructor: Wendy Tu, PhD, EdS
Office Hours: 9:20 – 9:45 PM MW
e-mail: miaowe@wlac.edu Please include "Math 123A" in the subject field of your message.

We will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates and myself. Rather than emailing questions to me, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com.

Find our **class page** at: http://piazza.com/smc/spring2015/math123a/home

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 110 or Math 112 with a grade of C or better

Course Materials:
Textbook: Lial M.L., Hornsby, J., & McGinnis, T. (2012). *Beginning & Intermediate Algebra, 5th ed.*, Pearson. Textbook is required in either a hardcopy or an electronic version (see *MyMathLab* below).
Calculators: Calculators with symbolic manipulation capabilities (CAS) are not allowed on tests. That includes the TI-Nspire series, Casio ClassPad or Algebra FX2+ or Prizm, HP Prime, etc. Also not allowed on tests are calculators built into a phone or any other device with communication capability.
***MyMathLab* (required):** This is a web-based e-learning application. You are required to do homework assignments online through *MyMathLab*. The electronic version of the book, *ebook*, is available on *MyMathLab*.
To register/login *MyMathLab*: Please download MyMathLab Registration Instruction.pdf from the Piazza class Resources page. ***Important***: Register *MyMathLab* for this course on or before Sunday, February 15 to avoid losing 20% of the course grade (There is a grace period of 14 days for temporary access if you choose to pay later).

Assessments:
- 20%: *MyMathLab* homework assignments; unlimited attempts
- 50%: Five tests (One lowest grade will be replaced by the average of all five tests)
  - Test #1: Chap 1
  - Test #2: Chap 2
  - Test #3: Chap 3
  - Test #4: Chap 4 & Appendix C
  - Test #5: Chap 5
- 30%: Comprehensive departmental final exam

Grading:

Percentage cutoff	Grade
89.5%	A
79.5%	B
69.5%	C
59.5%	D
Below 59.5%	F

Important Dates:
- 2/20: Last day to drop to receive enrollment fee and tuition refund
- 2/20: Last day to drop to avoid a "W" on permanent record
- 5/8: Last day to drop to receive a guaranteed "W"

General rules on homework/exams:

1. Online assignments need to be completed and submitted on or before the due dates. No extension will be granted to individuals for any reason. However, re-open of the online assignments will be made available during and at the end of the semester. Please refer to the Tentative Course Calendar for the exact dates.

2. There are **no makeup tests for any reason**. No tests will be given prior to the scheduled date either. Lowest test score will be replaced by the average of four test scores if you do not miss any one test. If you have to miss one test, the missing one will be replaced by 80% of your final exam. If you have to miss more than one test, you will be dropped from the class.

3. Tests are closed book and closed-notes. No scratch papers are allowed during the test. Calculators and any other electronic devices are NOT allowed on tests. Cell phone should be turned off (not on vibrate) and stored away. If cell phone is seen during the test, you will be treated as cheating on a test.

4. On the test date (including final exam), the test will not be given to a student 15 minutes late or after someone finishing the test, whichever comes first.

Attendance/Participation: Good attendance and active participation are crucial for the success of this class. Please arrange your schedule accordingly prior to enrolling the class. Frequently missing the class is not acceptable. Coming late or leaving early is also unacceptable. You may be dropped from the class for an accumulation of absence (including being tardy/leaving early) of 4 hours. Absence is defined as not showing up in class regardless of the reasons (being sick, attending jury duty, attending funerals, going on business trips, or whatever). However, it is still your responsibility to drop the class if you do not wish to complete. Failure to drop in a timely manner might result in an F on your academic record. Final exam will not be given to a student who misses excessively from the class. In general, you should expect to spend 8-9 hours every week in reviewing the materials covered, completing the homework, and previewing the materials to be covered in the next class meeting.

Students are expected to have all the necessary course-related materials/handouts ready when coming to the class. Cell phones and any electronic devices should be turned off (not on vibrate) and put away. No cell phones and materials unrelated to the class should be visible during the class. All students should participate in discussions and work on practicing sample questions given inside the class. Any disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to talking; listening to any musical instruments, reading materials other than classroom text, and obstruction or disruption of classes may result in the exclusion from the class.

Students are responsible for all the announcements made in the class.

College-wide Student Learning Outcomes:

- **Critical Thinking**: Classroom activities and assignments will require you to use sound reasoning to analyze, solve and interpret problems.
- **Communication**: You are expected to show and explain your work in a clear, well-organized manner in the assignments you turn in.
- **Quantitative Reasoning**: This is the core of your mathematics learning experience and will be demonstrated in all the work you do in this course.
- **Apply self-assessment and reflection strategies** to learn from your mistakes and to seek better methods to solve particular problems.
- **Civic Responsibility**: Students are expected to respect classmates as well as the instructor. This includes refraining from disruptive behavior (coming late, leaving early, wandering in and out of class, eating/drinking during class, side conversations, instant messaging, etc) and practicing positive behaviors (cooperation, civility, helpfulness, constructive engagement in class activity).
- **Technical Competence**: Utilize the appropriate technology – including web-based systems and hand-held graphing calculators – as well as pencil-and-paper methods for "skill drills" and problem solving.
- **Cultural Diversity**: Respect for all classmates and appreciation of the universality of mathematics in diverse cultures.
- **Ethics**: All students will maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. You may NOT give or receive help on tests or quizzes, and you may not turn in someone else's work as your own. *NOTE: If you are discovered committing any act of academic dishonesty (cheating), you will receive no credit ("zero") for the test or assignment AND you will be suspended from class AND the case will be referred to the Vice-President for Student Affairs for further disciplinary action. For further information see the WLAC Catalogue and Schedule of Classes.*
- **Aesthetics**: Mathematicians often talk about a "beautiful" or "elegant" method of solving a problem.

Math 123A Course Student Learning Outcomes:

- Perform basic operations on rational numbers and polynomials, including correct use of order of operations.
- Use appropriate techniques to solve linear and factorable quadratic equations and linear inequalities.
- Write, graph linear equations in two variables; analyze slope and intercepts.
- Factor polynomials.
- Solve problems using ratio, proportion, and percent.
- Analyze, model, and solve "story" problems (applications).
- Locate and utilize supplemental resources online and in textbooks.

Student achievement of SLOs will be assessed by means of tests as well as informal measures such as class participation, classwork, and student self-assessment.

Tentative Course Calendar

Day	Class Activities	Assignments
2/9 (M)	Class Introduction 1.1	
2/11 (W)	1.2 & 1.3	
2/16 (M)	***No Class Today!***	
2/18 (W)	1.4 & 1.5	
2/23 (M)	1.6 & 1.7	
2/25 (W)	1.8 & 2.1	Chap 1 HW due: 3/1
3/2 (M)	***Test #1 (Chap 1)***	Chap 1 Review (Sample test posted on Piazza.com)
3/4 (W)	2.2 & 2.3	
3/9 (M)	2.4 & 2.5	
3/11 (W)	2.6	
3/16 (M)	2.7	
3/18 (W)	2.8	Chap 2 HW due: 3/22
3/23 (M)	***Test # 2 (Chap 2)***	Chap 2 Review (Sample test posted on Piazza.com)
3/25 (W)	3.1 & 3.2	
3/30 (M)	3.3	
4/1 (W)	3.4	Chap 3 HW due: 4/12
4/5 ~ 4/12: Spring Break; Online HW assignments (Chaps 1~3) reopen		
4/13 (M)	***Test #3 (Chap 3)***	Chap 3 Review (Sample test posted on Piazza.com)
4/15 (W)	4.1 & 4.2	
4/20 (M)	4.3 & 4.4	
4/22 (W)	4.5 & 4.6	
4/27 (M)	4.6 & 4.7	
4/29 (W)	Appendix C	Chap 4 & Appendix C HW due: 5/3
5/4 (M)	***Test #4 (Chap 4 & Appendix C)***	Chap 4 Review (Sample test posted on Piazza.com)
5/6 (W)	5.1 & 5.2	
5/11 (M)	5.3 & 5.4	
11/13 (W)	5.5	
5/18 (M)	5.6	Chap 5 HW due: 5/19
5/20 (W)	***Test #5 (Chap 5)***	Chap 5 Review (Sample test posted on Piazza.com)
5/25 (M)	***No Class Today!***	***Online HW assignments (Chaps 4 & 5) reopen: 5/21 ~ 5/31***
5/27 (W)	Course wrap-up/Final Review	
6/1 (M)	Final Review	
6/3 (W)	***Final Exam***	