

# Initial Course Syllabus

## Basic Course Information

West Los Angeles College Mathematics 123A – section 4480 – 4:30 – 6:35 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays

Elementary/Intermediate Algebra – first part of three parts - MSA006 - fall, 2013

Mr. Stillson – office hours Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 – 4:25PM in MSA006

Contact – (310) 287-4219 (mathematics department) or [astillson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:astillson@sbcglobal.net)

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in Math 112 or placement by Math Dept.

Continuation: Grade of C or better in Math 123A, 123B and 123C meets elementary and intermediate algebra requirements.

Textbook: *Beginning and Intermediate Algebra* – Lial, Hornsby and McGinnis – 5th edition

Purpose of course – understanding of basic algebraic concepts and their applications

General learning goals – facility and understanding of topics covered

Format – homework and/or quiz review, new concepts, applications, weekly quiz

Instructional methods – instructor presentation with note-taking, student practice

**This course is designed to comply with the following West Los Angeles College Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

**1. Critical Thinking: Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.**

Quizzes and final examination will assess the ability of the student to solve application problems by (a) deciding what needs to be done, (b) identifying variables, (c) creating appropriate equations and (d) correctly solving the equations

**2. Quantitative Reasoning: Identify, analyze, and solve problems that are quantitative in nature.**

Quizzes and final examination will assess the ability of students to solve equations and inequalities by (a) using a proper sequence of steps, (b) do whole number, fraction, decimal, and percent arithmetic accurately, and (c) applying positive and negative number rules accurately

**3. Technical Competence: Utilize the appropriate technology effectively for informational, academic, personal and professional needs.**

Students will be assisted in the use of websites and calculators for finding relevant information and practice.

**This course is designed to comply with the following Program Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

**1. Apply quantitative thinking processes using basic mathematical operations to solve common academic, workplace, and family problems.** A variety of application problems will be included in this course.

**2. Use mathematical tools essential for analyzing problems and producing solutions.** Equations solving, inequality solving and graphing will be included in this course.

**3. Select appropriate math strategies for solving and handling real life problems involving finance, economics, and family issues.** Applications such as mark-ups and discounts will be included in this course.

Tentative Schedule - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30PM – 6:35PM

Starting 8/27 and ending 12/12 – no classes on 11/28 - Final on 12/12 at 4:30PM (2 hours)

Date      Sections

Date      Sections

Date      Sections

8/27	1.1		8/29	1.2-1.6		9/3	1.7 – 1.8
9/5	review and quiz 1		9/10	2.1 –			
2.3			9/12	2.3			
9/17	2.8		9/19	review and quiz			
2		9/24	2.4 – 2.5				
9/26	2.6		10/1	2.7		10/3	review
and quiz 3							
10/8	3.1 –		10/10	3.3		10/15	3.4
3.2							
10/17	review and quiz 4		10/22	4.1 –			
4.3			10/24	4.4 – 4.5			
10/29	4.6 – 4.7		10/31	review and quiz			
5		11/5	5.1 – 5.2				
11/7	5.3		11/12	5.4		11/14	review and
quiz 6							
11/19	5.5		11/21	5.5 –			
5.6			11/26	review and quiz 7			
11/28	holiday		12/3	cumulative review		12/5	cumulative
review							
12/10	cumulative review		12/12	final exam			

# Grading System

Grading: 55% quizzes, 40% final, 5% homework

Quizzes: Given the last hour on days when scheduled.

Quiz format: 10 questions – each question graded 10 for right – 5 for partially right – 0 for wrong answer and no work shown – 4 for omitted.

Homework: for practice and for understanding – counted into grade – checked from 12/3 – 12/12

Final computation: based on weighted percentages – A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 0-59

# Policies

Absence and tardiness always indirectly affect performance. If a student has more than 4 absences, I reserve the option to exclude said student.

There are no make-up quizzes. There are 7 scheduled quizzes and the quiz average is based on the number of quizzes taken. Students who take 6 or 7 quizzes will have the lowest quiz grade excluded from the average. Students who take less than 5 quizzes will be given a score of 50 on all quizzes needed to make 5. All quizzes are open book, open notes, calculator okay. Students who enter the class late will have quiz grades adjusted according to how many weeks were taken.

The final exam is for 2 hours and will have 20 questions – similar scoring system. Students missing the final exam will be given a grade of 50.

Homework is checked 12/3 through 12/12 and graded 100% if attempted or 0% if not attempted. An extra credit problem sheet with 5 problems will be passed out before Thanksgiving and due on 12/5. It's optional and each right answer adds 5 extra points to quiz total.

Breaks: 10 minute break at 5:25

Standards of student conduct: according to the West L.A. College schedule

Other: plagiarism is prohibited, cell phones and pagers should be off, calculators okay.

## **Advice**

Write clearly and put your name on quizzes.

Do the homework as scheduled to get maximum benefit when it's answered and explained.

Additional practice is always good – such as odd-number questions and computer help.

Try the extra credit.

Prepare a note folder for quizzes.

Have homework ready for checking near end of semester.

## **Topics Covered**

Real numbers -variable expressions - solving equations and inequalities – applications – graphing – laws of exponents – polynomials – factoring – quadratic equations

## **About Mr. Stillson**

Masters in mathematics and MBA

19 years of teaching experience – college and secondary school

27 years of business world experience

Author of puzzle and books and theater musicals – see [stillsonworks.com](http://stillsonworks.com)

# Homework Assignment Sheet – Math 123A

Due date	Section number and questions (even number questions will be reviewed)
8/29	1.1: 40-46, 64-66, 86-92
9/3	1.2: 28-32    1.3: 24-28    1.5: 38,42, 62-66    1.6: 68-72
9/5	1.7: 46-50, 66-72    1.8: 68-76
9/12	2.1: 22-30, 54-56    2.2: 30-36    2.3: 10-22
9/17	2.3: 36-50, 56
9/19	2.8: 38 – 56 solve only
9/26	2.4: 14-22    2.5: 40-46
10/1	2.6: 30-38, 44-54, 102-106
10/3	2.7: 18-30, 46-50
10/10	3.2: 14-20, 38-50

10/15      3.3: 28-38, 42-46

10/17      3.4: 40-42, 52-58, 66-70

10/24      4.1: 26-32, 44-52      4.2: 20-26, 36-42      4.3: 14-20, 26-34

10/29      4.4: 74-78      4.5: 16-22, 30-34, 42-54

10/31      4.6: 24 – 40      4.7: 8-12, 54 – 60, 78

11/7      5.1: 34 – 52, 70-76      5.2: 26-32, 54 - 58

11/12      5.3: 24 - 36

11/14      5.4: 8-18, 58 - 60

11/21      5.5: 24 – 42

11/26      5.5: 62 – 72      5.6: 8, 10, 18, 20, 26, 28

IT IS UP THE STUDENT WHO WISHES TO ADD OR DROP THIS COURSE TO DO IT ON A TIMELY BASIS.