

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE  
MATH-215 SYLLABUS  
FALL 2013 SECTION#4494  
PRINCIPLES OF MATHEMATICS I  
WEDNESDAYS: 6:45-10PM; ROOM GC-360

**Instructor Information – Mr. William Saravia**

**Office Hours:** I will stay after class if you need to see me individually. I can make special arrangements to meet with you by appointment. E-mail is the best way to contact me.

**Email:** mrwilliamsaravia@gmail.com

**URL:** mrwilliamsaravia.wordpress.com

**Text:** *Mathematics: A Practical Odyssey*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. by David B. Johnson and Thomas A. Mowry.

We will study chapters 1-4, 6, and material from handouts. A limited number of copies of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition can be freely borrowed in MSB 223. Bring ID and proof of registration in Math 215. (If no one is in room MSB 223, you may want to try MSB 216 with Mr. Robertson.)

**Course Description:** This course helps students understand topics in mathematics, including sets, number bases, number systems, logic and probability. It is recommended for prospective elementary school teachers. It focuses on quantitative reasoning and rigorous critical thinking.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Recognize valid and invalid uses of inductive reasoning and deductive reasoning
2. Employ multiple approaches to non-routine problems, e.g. in geometry, number theory and logic
3. Use mathematical notation to define sets and perform operations on them
4. Construct truth tables, establish equivalence, test the validity of a logical argument
5. Use algebraic formulas in geometrical, business, financial and scientific contexts
6. Appreciate the historical development of mathematics within different social contexts

**Prerequisite:** Mathematics 125 with a grade of "C" or better or appropriate placement level demonstrated through WLAC math assessment process.

**\*Please make sure that the LACCD computer system has your correct and current email address.**

**Calculator Policy:** Calculators and computer software will be used to enhance learning and its use is encouraged to check your manual work as well. However, only a scientific calculator is allowed on quizzes and exams. Recommended Calculator: TI-30 (any version)

**Student Expectation:** Respect is fundamental. Respect includes not disrupting the class in any manner. Please turn off cellphones before coming to class. Each student has a unique learning process, so respect each other as well. Sharing ideas through discussions is encouraged, however, at appropriate instances.

Students are expected to participate and contribute to the classroom environment. Each student brings her or his unique mentality and personality into the classroom, and your input will be necessary. Attendance not only includes your physical presence, but also your mental alertness. You need to be ready to answer when being called upon. Participation is definitely mandatory.

In learning any new skill, we all make mistakes. It is of utmost importance that you learn from your mistakes. It is like when you first ride a bike, it is probable that you will fall. Pick yourself right up, dust yourself off, and continue to ride. In mathematics, everyone will make mistakes. (Even top mathematicians make mistakes!) What is crucial is to do your best, continue to “ride,” continue to learn, and continue to grow.

**Help:** I am here to make sure you learn and understand the material. It is your job to let me know when you are having difficulties. I will be glad to stay after class to help you or set an appointment with me to discuss any concerns that you may have.

**GRADES:** Your final grade will be determined by the percentage of total points that you earn.

Attendance/ Participation/Effort/ In-Class Assignments	5%	30 pts	A 90 - 100%
Homework	10%	60 pts	B 80 - 89%
Quizzes (4)	20%	120 pts	C 70 - 79%
Exams (3)	40%	240 pts	D 60 - 69%
Project(s)	8%	50 pts	F below 60%
Final Exam	17%	100 pts	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>600</b>	

**Honor Code:** Students are expected to adhere to the highest level of academic integrity. Any form of dishonesty, including cheating, in violation of the Standards of Student Conduct will be disciplined according to Student Discipline Procedures. For more information see:

<http://www.wlac.edu/online/documents/StudentConduct.pdf>

**Attendance, Participation, Effort, and In-Class Assignments:** You will receive credit for attending class, participating, putting in genuine effort, and in-class assignments and activities.

**Homework :** Homework will be assigned a week before and due every Wednesday. Staple your HW set and each HW set must have a title: 1) Name, 2) HW #, 3) Sections and problem numbers. Points will be deducted if you do not follow these instructions. Lastly, late homework will be accepted; but you will be penalized for late submission.

**QUIZZES, EXAMS, and Final Exam:** There will be 4 quizzes, each worth 30 pts. Quizzes will be representative of homework and lectures. There will be 3 exams and a final exam. Exams will be representative of quizzes, homework, and lectures. Final exam will be cumulative. Again, only scientific calculators can be used on quizzes and exams. You will need to put away your cell phones away during this time. *No make-ups for quizzes and exams.* If there is an emergency that you must miss a quiz or exam, I will need documentation on file for that absence.

**Project(s):** You will have at least one project. Details will be given in class at a later time.