

Math 125 (#1488) Summer 2014

MTWTh 10:20 a.m. - 12:55 p.m. June 16 - August 7 (8 weeks)

Intermediate Algebra (5 units) Classroom MSA 109

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Manipulative skills in algebra are developed and strengthened in the course. The topics include rational exponents, the complete number system of algebra, algebraic and graphical solutions to linear and quadratic equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, elementary theory of equations and inequalities and conics. A wide variety of statement problems are included in the course.

Prerequisite: Mathematics 115 or 118 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement through the WLAC Assessment process.

ALERT: This summer-session class goes VERY FAST. It assumes that you will spend about 3 hours Monday-Thursday outside of class working on mathematics, plus another 8 hours or more over each three-day weekend. It is most appropriate for students who have sufficient time available AND who received an A in Math 115 or a D in Math 125 in the Spring semester of 2014, or who have assessed into a transfer-level math class but wish to refresh their Algebra skills first.

Instructor: Dr. Bonnie Blustein 310-287-4217 blusteb@wlac.edu

Office Hours: There are no official office hours in the summer session, but if you need help or want to chat, the best time to find me in my office (MSB 205) is usually Mon. - Thurs. from 9 - 10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. Stop by to see if I'm free, or email me to set up an appointment.

Textbook: Intermediate Algebra by Lial, Hornsby & McGinnis, 11th edition ISBN 9780321715418. The bookstore has this book for sale or rent, and also has a WLAC Custom Edition which is essentially the same. Look for the book on the Web, where you will probably be able to buy or rent it for less. If you have access to a copy of the 10th edition, you will be able to use that with a little extra effort. Other options may be available. **YOU NEED THE BOOK RIGHT AWAY.**

Free tutoring is available in the Learning Resource Center ("Library"). Please use it! You may also use the Math study room (MSB 217) where an instructor is often accessible.

Students with disabilities should contact Disabled Students Programs and Services located in SSB 320 (310-287-4450) immediately to arrange accommodations. The instructor will do everything possible to comply with ADA and all other mandates, and to assist you.

Most of us are dealing with a lot besides class: job (or joblessness), family problems, child care, health or housing issues, and many other impacts of the deep crisis in our society today. The **WLAC Health Center** can hook you up with a counselor to help you deal with stress. Other programs on campus that can help include **Workforce Development, TRIO-SSS, EOP&S, Counseling, the Veterans' Office, and DSPS**. Let me know what you need, and I will try to point you in the right direction. However, if you have a lot of "issues," this fast-paced summer-school course might not be your best option.

The LA County hotline is **211** - it refers you to publicly available services.

Detailed schedule of topics to be handed out on the first day of class.

Math 125 Course SLOs

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

Last day to file a pre-requisite/challenge petition: MAY 30

FIRST OFFICIAL DAY OF CLASS: MONDAY, JUNE 16

Last day to add a class, or to drop without fee and without W: Friday, June 20

Midterm Exam in class on MONDAY, JULY 7

Last day to drop with W: Friday, July 25

Departmental Final Exam in CLASS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

HOW TO SUCCEED IN MATH 125:

Do a lot of math problems and make sure that your answers are correct!

Math is not a “spectator sport.” Solving problems outside of class is where you learn the most. Most students will need to spend three hours each day, outside of class, plus eight hours over each weekend, practicing math on your own, in a study group, or with a tutor.

- Specific problems will be assigned but NOT collected.
- Form study groups! If you meet in the Library, you may be able to get a tutor to join you.
- Keep all of your work in an organized fashion and use it to study for tests.

Begin each study session by reviewing your class notes and the text. Then do the assigned practice problems. End your session by previewing the next day’s material, either in the text OR by watching an online video (try YouTube).

Materials: Please bring your math notebook (with graph paper), pencils, a calculator (if you have one) and the textbook to class each day. Calculators or laptops with symbolic manipulation capabilities, and calculators built into any device with communication capability (such as an iPhone) are not allowed on tests.

Attendance: Please be in class on time every day, stay to the end, and participate in all class activities.

DO NOT take this class if this is not possible (for example, if you work Mondays or have to pick someone up at 12:30 each day or if you have surgery or a week-long vacation planned for July).

College policy is that an instructor may drop a student who has missed more than six hours of class. If you have excessive absences (for any reason) AND you do not pass the midterm exam, you may be dropped without notice.

If you miss the midterm test, you MUST call or email me ASAP to let me know why, and when you can take a make-up. If you miss two days in a row, please let me know why. If you can’t complete the class, it is YOUR responsibility to drop the class (“withdraw”) on or before Friday, July 25, 2014.

“Did I miss anything?” If you were absent, then YES! We will usually cover 2-3 sections of the text each day. You will get a schedule that tells you what we’re working on each day. If you miss a class, look for an instructional video on YouTube or read the text, and try the homework problems. Consult a tutor for help.

RESPECT: Yourself, Classmates, Instructor

- Please practice positive behavior (cooperation, civility, helpfulness, constructive engagement)
- Avoid disruptive behavior (side conversations, eating/drinking in class, wandering in and out of the room, coming late or leaving early without an urgent reason, etc.).
- Maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Collaboration is encouraged on most homework, classwork, and take-home assignments. However, you may NOT give or receive help on tests and you may not turn in someone else's work as your own.

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 information see the WLAC Catalogue and Schedule of Classes.

Evaluation/Grading

All class activities and homework should help you achieve the course **Student Learning Outcomes** at a level that **prepares you for success in your transfer-level math classes and in other situations requiring Algebra skills.** You have your reasons for taking this class: to learn Algebra, to complete an AA degree or a



Transfer or Certificate program. I am confident that you can succeed, **as long as you have enough time for the work.** I am here to help you do that.

"Grades" and "points" are feedback on your progress.

Ideally, education would be very different from today's schooling and there would be no points or tests or grades. But since we are still struggling for an ideal society, I will have to

assign you a grade in August, based on the rubric described below.

MIDTERM - 35% of grade

This will be mainly "constructed-response" (show all work) solo in-class exercise. It is NOT designed to impose time pressure. It will include opportunities for "extra credit." Make-ups will only be given if there is a valid, documented excuse and if requested promptly.

TAKE-HOME QUIZZES - 20% of grade

These will be distributed at the end of class on most Thursdays, due at the start of class on the following Monday. There will be six quizzes, and the lowest score will be dropped. **You are encouraged to work collectively and get all the help you need to achieve scores of 90-100% on every quiz.**

FINAL EXAM - 45% of grade

This will be a two-hour cumulative solo test during the last class period that covers the material from the entire textbook and focuses on the Student Learning Outcomes for the course.

Grades: "Incomplete" grades are extremely rare and may only be considered if a student is passing the class with a C or better on July 25 and is unable, due to an emergency, to complete the course on time.

The **grading scale** will be no stricter than:

90-100% A

80-89% B

70-79% C

55-69% D

under 55% F

If your score on the final or your weighted test average (midterm and final) is 70% or higher, then you will pass the class as long as you have been attending regularly and taking tests.

Note, however, that a student is much less likely to pass the next mathematics course after receiving a C in the pre-requisite course than if s/he had received an A or B. That is, a C is NOT "good enough."