Instructor:

Bonnie Blustein, Ph.D.

Professor of Mathematics
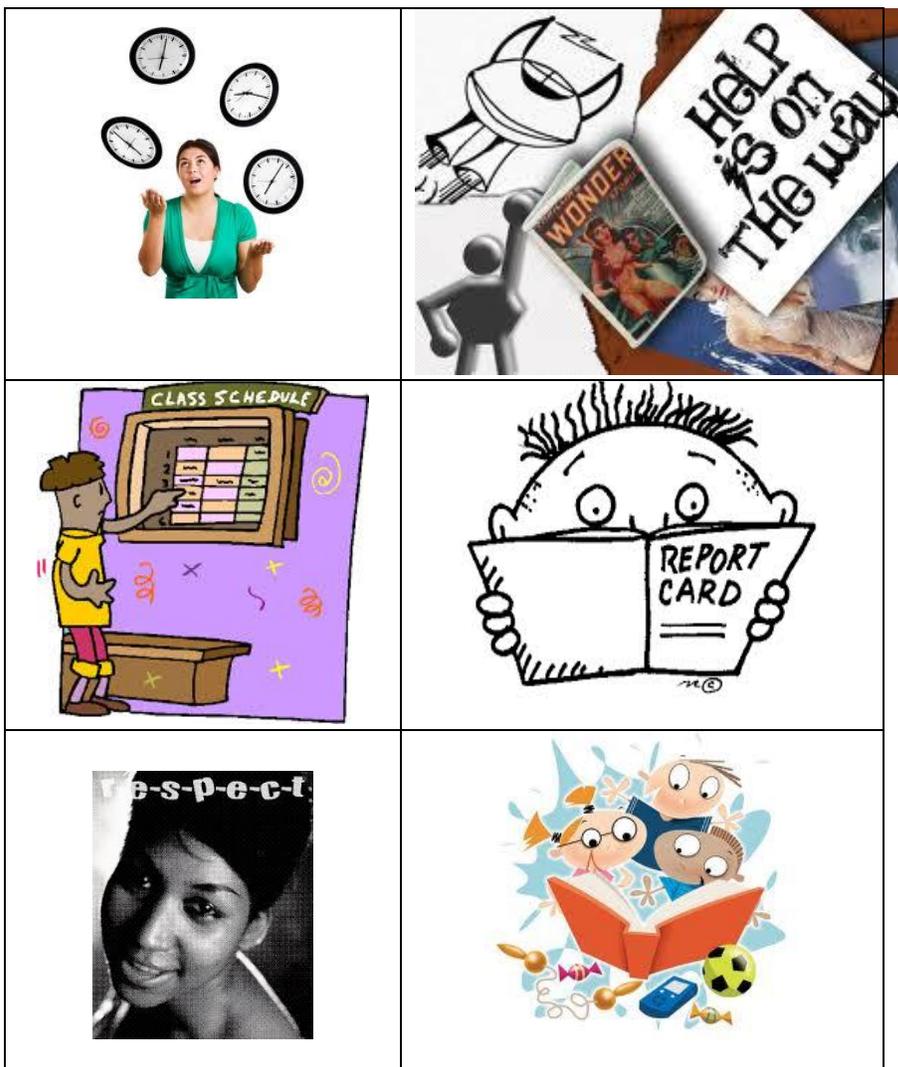
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MSB 205

Maybe you've always been good at math. Maybe not. Either way, I'm here to help you learn to learn math, master some new material (and maybe to unlearn old mistakes) so that you can proceed toward your AA degree, certificate, and/or transfer and- we all hope!— eventually a job that will allow you to live comfortably and do meaningful work.

That's not easy today, when many students face real obstacles, and the kind of work we need is hard or impossible to find. So, while we're struggling with Algebra this semester, let's also spend a little time thinking about what education and work should really be like. And let's think about how we can make that happen!

Math 123A (#1478) Fall 2014
TWTh   9:35 – 10:50 a.m. in CE 222

With special help sessions on Mondays!

Beginning & Intermediate Algebra I
SEE INSIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Math 123A (#1478) Fall 2014
TWTh 9:35 – 10:50 a.m. (Come Mondays for extra help)
Elementary and Intermediate Algebra I (4 units) Classroom MSA 009

This is the first module 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.

Prerequisite: Mathematics 110 or 112 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement through the WLAC Assessment process.

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

Office Hours: I will be in the classroom on Mondays at the regular time to help you. Please come!

If you need help or want to chat, the best time to find me in my office is usually Wednesday or Thursday, 12:45-2 pm. You may stop by any afternoon to see if I'm free, or email me to set up an appointment.

Textbook: Beginning & Intermediate Algebra by Lial, Hornsby & McGinnis. The Bookstore has a WLAC Custom Edition which is basically the regular 5th ed (2012, ISBN-9780321715869) We will cover chapters 1-5 in this course and the rest of the book in Math 123B and Math 123C. You can get the 5th edition (used or in electronic form) much more cheaply on-line. Rental is NOT a good option because you will need this book for three semesters.

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.

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

Math 123A Course SLOs	
1.	Perform basic operations on rational numbers and polynomials, using correct order of operations
2.	Use appropriate techniques to solve linear and factorable-quadratic equations and linear inequalities
3.	Write, graph linear equations in two variables; analyze slope and intercepts
4.	Factor polynomials
5.	Solve problems using ratio, proportion, and percent
6.	Analyze, model, and solve "story" problems (applications) using (2) above
7.	Locate and utilize supplemental resources online and in textbooks

IMPORTANT DATES:

FIRST DAY OF CLASS: TUESDAY, September 2
Last day to add a class, or to drop without fee and without W: Friday, September 12
Last day to drop with W: Friday, November 21
Final Exam: Wednesday, December 17, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN MATH123A:
Do a lot of math problems and make sure that your answers are correct!

Math is not a "spectator sport." You learn to solve problems by solving problems. Most students will need to spend an hour or more each day, outside of class, plus weekend time, practicing math.

- Specific problems will be assigned and selected problems will be collected.
- Come Mondays with questions or ask at the start of class.
- Form study groups! Meet in the Library and ask 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 devices with communication capability (such as an iPhone) are not allowed on tests.

Reading is important: We will be making use of Reading Apprenticeship techniques in this class. All students are expected to participate.

Attendance: Please be in class on time every day, stay to the end, and participate in all class activities. 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 are not passing, you may be dropped without notice.

If you miss a 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 or more 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, November 21, 2014. LET'S TALK IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT DROPPING THE CLASS and try to make a plan for you to succeed.

"Did I miss anything?" If you weren't in class, of course you did! The schedule in this packet 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 or use the instructor's office hours to get help.

R E S P E C T: 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, take-home assignments, and test corrections. However, you may NOT give or receive help on tests (except make-up points) 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 next Algebra course 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 December, based on the rubric described below.

In-Class Tests (4) - 60% of grade

These will mainly be "constructed-response" (show all work) in-class exercises. They are NOT designed to impose time pressure. Half the points lost on the first three tests may be earned back by turning in corrections. Make-ups will only be given if there is a valid, documented excuse and if requested promptly. Options for earning-back points may be limited. **In-class tests are scheduled for WEDNESDAYS. No test scores will be dropped**.

Homework – 10% of grade. Packets will be due every Tuesday except weeks in which there is a test on Wednesday, and the final packet which will be due on a Wednesday. You may work together or get help on homework, and I expect you to turn in accurate, complete work. You will self-report on what you have accomplished, and the reports will be spot-checked for accuracy. Cover sheets will be provided, with detailed instructions.

Final Exam – 30% of grade

This will be a two-hour cumulative test during the regularly scheduled final-exam period that covers the first five chapters of the 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 November 21 **and** is unable, due to an emergency, to complete the course on time. Otherwise, you must *withdraw* by Friday, November 21, 2014.

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 is 70% or higher, then you will pass the class as long as you have been attending regularly and turning in tests and most quizzes.

Note, however, that a student is much less likely to pass the next course in a sequence 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."

Schedule– Subject to change by Instructor

- Do these problems AFTER class and BEFORE the next class. Use weekends and Monday mornings to catch up.

- "Orally" means you don't have to write it down. "eoo" means "Every Other Odd" problem

- ALWAYS check answers to odd problems in the back of the book, as you go.

Week #	MON (Come for homework help, test review or to work on test corrections)		TUES	WED	THURS
1	Sept. 1-4	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY - campus closed	1.1 #1-8 orally, 9-89 eoo *1.1 #93-114	1.2 #1-6 orally, 7-49 eoo, 57-81 odds *1.2 #54, 70, 72, 74, 76, 85-92, 95-97, 100	1.3 #1-4 and 75-80 orally, 9-17 odds, 23-35 odds, 55-65 odds *1.3 #5-8,18-19,36b-37b, 39-54, 62, 66-74, 83
2	Sept. 8-11	Don't be shy! Come in and get acquainted!	1.4 #1-27, 35-42 orally, 53-75 odds *1.4 #28, 32, 34, 48-49, 52, 74, 77-80	1.5 #1-10 orally, 11-79 eoo, 81-133 odds *1.5 #80-134 evens	1.6 #1-10 orally, #11-123 eoo, 125a-132a *1.6 #25, 49, 77, 85, 105, 117, 121
3	Sept. 15-18	By now you have questions. Come ask them.	1.7 #1-18, 21-41 orally (but check your answers), 43-61 odds, 65-87 odds, *1.7 #19-20, 62-63, 86, 89, 91, 93	1.8 #1-34 orally, 37-79 odds *1.8 #35-36, 81-90 "mixed review" p. 82 all	2.1 #1-3 orally, 5-45 odds, 53-67 odds *2.1 #47, 49, 51, 69, 71, 75-78 Ch. 1 "test" (all)
4	Sept. 22-25	Review for Test 1	2.2 #1-3, 5-20 orally, #21-51 odds, 57-67 odds	TEST 1: 1.1-2.1 2.2 # 77-82 *2.2 #53, 55, 69, 73-76	2.3 #1-8 orally, 9-19 odd-51 odd, 65-75 odd, 81-85 odd *2.3 #53-63 odd, 77-80
5	Sept. 29-Oct. 2	Get Test 1 back early – head start on corrections	2.4 #1-4 orally, 5-10, 13-21, 23-29, 32-46, 51 *2.4 #11-12, 22, 30-31	2.4 #52-58, 59-62 2.5 #1-12 orally, #13-45 odds *2.5 #20, 22, 28, 38, 42, 46	*2.5 #47-58, 84, 86, 88, 90 2.5 #59-65 odds, 67-83, 85-97 odds
6	Oct. 6-9	Finish Test 1 corrections	2.6 #1-42 all *2.6 #22, 26, 30, 36, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 Test 1 corrections due	2.6 #43-109 odds, *2.6 #50, 56, 62, 70, 74, 80, 102, 104, 106	**2.7** #1-32 all *2.7 #16, 20, 24, 26, 30, 32 Ch. 2 Rev. sections 2.1-2.3
7	Oct. 13-16	Get help on Chapter 2	**2.7** #33-52 all *2.7 #44, 46, 50, 52, 56 **Ch. 2 Rev.** sections 2.4-2.5	2.8 #1-5 orally, 5-49 odds, 63-77, 83-101 odds *2.8 #36, 46, 70, 76, 96, 101	2.8 #83-103 *2.8 #51, 55, 73, 77, 79-82, 103
8	Oct. 20-23	Review for Test 2	3.1 #1-10 oral, 11-45 odds, 59-64 oral, 65-77 odds **3.1 *66, 70, 74, 76**	Test 2: 2.2-2.8	**3.2** #1-29 odds, 30, 31-65 odd, 67-74 all ***3.2 #36, 42, 48, 64, 68, 70**

SCHEDULE – Subject to change by Instructor – Part II

Week #	MON (No class, but come for extra help with homework or the "topic of the day")		TUES	WED	THURS
9	Oct. 27-30	Get Test 2 back – head start on corrections	**3.3** #1-8, 9-20 oral, 21-63 odds, 65-71, Ch. 3 rev. 3.1-3.2 *3.3 #22, 24, 26, 40, 48, 52	**3.4** #1-14 oral, 15-63 odds *3.4 #36, 42, 62, 70, 74, 78, 80	**3.4** #65-77 odds, 79-84 all **Summary exercises** p. 222 #1-19 odds, 20, 21-31 odds *Ch. 3 Rev. #36-48 all
10	Nov. 3-6	Chapter 3 questions	**4.1** #1-95 odds *4.1 #76, 78, 82, 86, 90, 94 **Test 2 corrections due**	**4.2** #1-77 odds, 86, *4.2 #34, 56, 72, 78	**4.3** #1-61 odds, *4.3 #20, 22, 36, 40, 50, 58 **Summary exercises** p. 247 all **Ch. 3 "Test"**
11	Nov. 10-13	Review for Test 3	**VETERANS' DAY HOLIDAY (school closed)**	**TEST 3 (3.1-4.3)** Ch. 2 Cumulative Review (all)	**4.4** #1-16 oral, 17-95 odds, 97-100 all, Ch. 2 "Test" #1-10 *4.4 #36, 42, 48, 54, 70, 86
12	Nov. 17-20	Get Test 3 back – head start on corrections	**4.5** #1-67 odds, 69-97 every other odd *4.5 #26,34,58,68,84,98	**4.6** #3-59 odds, 61-66, 77-83 odds, *4.6 #20, 36, 56, 80 Ch. 3 rev. #3.3-3.4	**4.7** #1-6 oral, 7-83 every other odd and *4.7 #16,36,46,56,66,76
13	Nov. 24-27	Finish Test 3 corrections	**Appendix C** #1-15 odds and *C#6, 16 **5.1** #1-89 every other odd *5.1 #52, 58, 72, 78 **Test 3 Corrections Due**	**5.2** #1-24, #25-65 every other odd *5.2 #36, 48, 56, 62 **Ch. 4 Review** all *Ch. 4 rev. #89-108 all	**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (campus closed)**
14	Dec. 1-4	Review Chapter 4	**5.3** #1-85 every other odd and *5.3 #28, 40, 54, 70, 84 **5.4** #1-6,7-31 every other odd	**5.4** #35-95 every other odd *5.4 ##24, 30, 36, 50, 65, 82 **5.5** #1-10 oral, 11-79 every other odd,	**5.5** *5.5 #36, 50, 56, 60, 68, 80 **5.6** #3-33 odds, 34-37 all and *5.6 #12, 16, 20, 38, 36, 38
15	Dec. 8-11	Review for Test 4	Ch. 5 Review (all)	**TEST 4 – 4.4-5.6 (NO MAKE-UP POINTS)** Ch. 3 Cumulative Review	REVIEW FOR FINAL Ch. 4 Cumulative Review; Chapter 5 Cumulative Review
Finals	Dec. 15-18	**FINALS START (no more regular day classes)**		**Cumulative Final Exam** (NO MAKE-UP POINTS) December 17 **10:15 am – 12:15 pm**	