

West Los Angeles College --- Fall 2014
MATH 125 – Intermediate Algebra (section #4960)
M: 7:15 PM – 9:25 PM, Room: MSA 105

Instructor : Junko Forbes
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Prerequisite : Math 115 or 118 with a grade of C or better, or appropriate placement level demonstrated through the mathematics assessment process.

Text Book : **Intermediate Algebra**, 11th edition.,by Lial, Hornsby, McGinnis. ISBN-13: 9780321715418

Course 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.

Course Objectives (as stated in the Course Outline of Record)

1. Demonstrate facility with operations involving real and complex numbers, algebraic expressions, and functions
2. Use appropriate techniques to solve equations, including: linear, quadratic (or quadratic in form), exponential and logarithmic equations; equations involving rational or radical expressions or absolute value, and those involving factorable polynomials; and systems of linear and non-linear equations.
3. Use functions and systems of equations to model data and solve 'story' problems
4. Solve and graph linear and non-linear inequalities in one and two variables
5. Graph and analyze functions (linear, quadratic, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic) and conic sections
6. Write, evaluate, and apply arithmetic and geometric sequences and series
7. Be prepared to succeed in a transfer-level mathematics course.

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 variation.
3. Construct and analyze graphs of functions, inequalities, and conic sections.

Math Program SLOs

- 1) Apply quantitative thinking processes using basic mathematical operations to solve common academic, workplace, and family problems. (Theme: mathematical operations)
- 2) Analyze and interpret spatial and graphic data (schedules, maps, and tables, graphs) to plan and organize daily routines. (Theme: spatial and graphic data).
- 3) Use mathematical tools essential for analyzing quantitative problems and for producing solutions.
- 4) Apply advanced mathematical concepts and tools (algebra, calculus) essential in upper division academic work and/or workplace tasks. (Theme: advanced mathematical operations—algebra, calculus)
- 5) Select appropriate math strategies for solving and handling real life problems involving finance, economics, and family issues. (Theme: mathematical problem-solving)

Grades:

HW / Quizzes/Discussion Board 17%
3 Exams 50%
Final 33%

Grading Cut-off:

90% - 100% A
80% - 89.9% B
70% - 79.9% C
60% - 69.9% D
59.9% - below F

Participation: A part of your grade 30 points is based on participation. That means interacting on the Discussion Board with the instructor and your fellow students to discuss and communicate the mathematics and other aspects of the course. You are required to post a total of 15 messages (One message per chapter/exam review/bio. Of course you can post more than one message per chapter but you do not get extra points for doing that). Each message is worth 2 points. To earn credit you may either ask a question, answer a question or contribute meaningfully to the discussion. Your points will be calculated at the end of semester.

Online Homework and Quizzes: Each assignment and quiz has a specific due date. The work you need to do to complete your online homework and quizzes should be neatly written in your notebook. The notebook will NOT be collected. Late homework is not accepted for any reason. You have unlimited attempts for each homework assignment and only the highest score gets recorded. You have 3 attempts for each quiz and only the highest score will be used to calculate your grade. **No Late homework will be accepted.**

Exams Prior To Final Exam: There will be 3 exams given prior to the final exam. All exams are closed notes and books. No make-up exams, no retakes, and no drop of scores will be given for any reason but your final exam percentage will replace your lowest score if it is higher. Contact me immediately if you miss an exam. Make sure to bring pencils, an eraser, and a scientific or a graphing calculator. You are not allowed to use a pen on exams.

Final Examination: The final examination will be comprehensive. Any material covered during the course is fair game for testing. Failure to take the final exam in its entirety will result in a grade F for the course. The final must be taken in order to pass this class. Do not plan vacations that will require missing this day and time – no exceptions can be given.

Calculator: You will want to have either a scientific calculator or a TI83/84 level calculator for this class. Calculators are allowed on all exams. **You cannot use your cell phone as calculator.**

Classroom Policies: I will keep my cell phone off during class and I expect the same courtesy from you. This also holds for beepers, pagers, and any other electronic devices. Permission to use the restroom need not be asked for. Just go ahead but please be respectful of the instructor and your classmates. I scan the classroom regularly so if questions arise please gently get my attention when I finish my current thought. Generally just use your own common sense and be respectful of your surroundings, I will do the same.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken every class session. You are expected to be present and on time at every class meeting and to actively participate. You are considered late if I have finished taking roll and have started the day's lesson. Students who are excessively absent (more than 2 absences) may be dropped from the class. However, it is ultimately the students' responsibility to withdraw themselves from the class through the Admissions Office if they wish to be withdrawn. Don't just stop coming to class and assume the instructor will drop you.

Academic Honesty: Complete honesty is expected at all times. Any dishonesty will be taken seriously by me, the department and the College. Please refer to the Student Handbook if you need further information. I encourage cooperative work on homework assignments because one of the best ways to learn mathematics (besides practicing) is to teach others. I expect individual homework solutions, however, to be written individually. Sharing on exams of any form is prohibited. This includes information, stories, calculators, notes, etc. Please do not hesitate to see or contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

DSP&S: Any student with a documented learning disability has the right to certain considerations and privacy. Please again consult the Student Handbook for more information, or see the Disabled Students Office.

Important Dates:

Last Day to add : 09/12/2014

Drop Deadline without W: 09/12/2014

Drop Deadline with W: 11/21/2014