

# Math 110: Intro to Algebraic Concepts

West LA College Fall 2015

Instructor: Jamie Jenson

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Section: 1460 (5units)

Phone: 310.287.4219

MTWTh 11:10am-12:20pm (8/31-12/20)

Office: **MSB221**

Classroom: SC 105

Office Hrs: **MW: 10-11a, 6-7p;**

**TTh: 2:30-3:30p**

Last day to drop with refund and **without a W: Sept 11**, Last day to drop **with a W: Nov 20**

**Materials:** You NEED a textbook, a notebook for notes, a scientific calculator and a pencil.

You CANNOT use a graphing calculator or any device with communication abilities or internet access. You cannot share calculators. Anything turned in needs to be in pencil. PEN will NOT be graded.

**Textbook:** PreAlgebra (6th Ed.) by Elayn Martin-Gay (there are blueberries on the cover)

**Prerequisites:** Mathematics 105 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement through the assessment process.

## Course Description:

This course prepares students for algebra. It discusses abstract ideas necessary for understanding algebra and reviews selected topics in arithmetic relevant to algebra. Introduces fundamental notions of algebra including signed numbers, variables, simple equations, proportions reasoning, applications, and modeling. This course also includes group instruction in mathematics study skills.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** The successful student will be able to:

1. Calculate fluently (by hand) with signed whole decimal numbers and fractions
2. Model and solve problems using variables and simple linear equations and inequalities
3. Solve problems involving proportional reasoning (including percents)

**Availability:** I am available through email and in office hours. If you are not able to meet during office hours, you can make an appointment with me at another time, if possible. If you cannot make office hours, you should make use of the tutoring center on campus in the library.

<b>Grading:</b>	Homework	15%	A: 90 - 100%
	Quizzes	15%	B: 80 - 90%
	Midterm Exams	40%	C: 70 - 79%
	Final Exam	30%	D: 60 - 69%
		100%	F: Below 60%

Your grade will not be curved. Your grade is calculated by a weighted average. "H" stands for homework average, "Q" stands for quiz and class work average, "E" stands for exam average, and "F" stands for final exam score.  $Grade = .15(H) + .15(Q) + .4(E) + .3(F)$

## Need Help?

There are many resources that are available to you for help with homework, studying and time management.

1. Your instructor
2. Your peers
3. HLRC Tutor Center - First Floor of the HLRC, and it is FREE.
4. Private Tutoring

Do NOT wait until the last minute looking for help. By then, it will be too late. You need to keep on top of your homework to make sure you are successful in this class, and any others you take.

**Attendance:** Attendance is essential for success in math. Coming late is disruptive to your classmates and is not acceptable. If you miss more than 3 classes, I may drop you from the course. Tardiness is counted as an absence. If you need to be late or miss a class, let me know by email before class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Homework (15%)

Homework will be collected throughout the semester. You should work homework problems immediately after covered in lecture. You need to work on homework to be prepared for quizzes and exams, and to understand the material as we go along. If you get behind, it is very difficult to catch up. Late homework will not be accepted. Homework is graded on completeness and correctness, giving the answer does not count as doing the problem. EOO means “every other odd” (So 1-40 EOO would be #1, 5, 9, 13,...). Please follow FAWW below to get maximum points. You should bring your questions to office hours or the tutoring center for help.

### Quizzes/Class Work (15%)

Quizzes or worksheets or group projects will be given on any day during the semester. Most likely they will be given twice a week. They will be given at any time during the class period. You will be expected to know any material covered in the previous class. **NO MAKEUPS** for this work, but copies of the handouts will be available while supplies last. **I will be dropping two quizzes to account for any missed quiz/worksheet.**

### Exams (40%)

There will be 5 midterm exams on the dates indicated in the schedule. Exam dates are subject to change if necessary. The problems on the exam will be similar to homework problems and quizzes. You must show your work. If you only put the answer, you will receive no credit. There are no make-up exams, however for excused absences your final exam score will be used to replace the missed exam score. **YOU MUST CONTACT ME** to see if this applies to you. If I do not hear from you before the next class you attend, you will receive a 0. If a second exam is missed, it will be recorded as 0.

### Final (30%)

The final exam is a department wide multiple choice exam. You must bring an 88-2 Scantron form. A missed final exam will result in an ‘F’ in the course. **No makeup exams will be given for missing class or being late!** If you keep up with the material and complete all the homework problems and study the quizzes, you should be well prepared for the exams. But, you are expected to understand the concepts we cover, not just the particular problems, so do not expect to see the exact problems that are on the quizzes also on the exams. They will be different, but overall will be similar.

### Responsibility

**Your grade is your responsibility.** If you want to do well in this course, you will want to devote studying for this class at least 2 hours for every hour in class. It is in your best interest to work on this stuff a lot outside of coming to class. You need to make sure that you are studying every day, doing homework and keeping up with the material. If you do not understand a concept, you need to talk with me immediately, because you don’t have time to get behind. I do not grade easily. I expect a lot from you, as you will expect a lot from me. You are paying for this course, please get the most out of it by attending for the full time and paying attention.

You are expected to check your emails regularly.

You are also expected to withdraw from this class if you decide to leave too soon, do not expect me to do it for you.

All cellphones should be on silent during class. No texting please. If you need to take a phone call for an emergency, let me know before class and please step outside to take it.

## **Format for All Written Work (FAWW)**

All written work must follow the following format to receive full credit:

1. Use standard size 8 ½ x 11 inch sheets of notebook or blank paper. Reusing previously printed-paper is not acceptable.
2. Do not use paper with torn or rough edges (such as spiral notebook) - tear these off before turning in.
3. **Use a pencil - work done with a pen is not acceptable.**
4. Write your First and Last name, the class (Math125) in upper right hand corner of your first page.
5. Put the title of your work at the top. (HW #12, etc)
6. **Staple or paper clip all sheets together.** Loose pages will not be accepted.
7. Write the number of each problem. Work should be done in numerical order.
8. Divide the paper in half vertically. Work from the top of the left hand column down in numerical order. If the work from your first column does not spread across to the second column, you may continue at the top of the right hand column and work downward again.
9. Leave at least one horizontal line of space between problems.
10. Use only a maximum of two columns per side.
11. You may use both sides of the paper.
12. Write solutions using the style demonstrated in class: neat and clear, working downward, line-by-line and word problems should show all steps.
13. Use an eraser to remove mistakes.
14. Circle or box your answers.
15. Messy work should not be turned in. If you would not want to grade it, why would I?

## **Behavior Guidelines**

1. Students will respect and accept the authority of the instructor and instructional associates to establish the rules and procedures for the classroom, laboratory, and tutoring room and will comply with these rules and procedures.
2. Students will use appropriate language and classroom etiquette at all times. This includes encouraging your peers and not putting anyone down because they do not know how to do something.
3. **Students will arrive on time** to class and refrain from leaving early unless prior permission has been granted.
4. Students will endeavor to keep good attendance and maintain a serious attitude regarding their own achievement including the completion of all assignments in a timely manner.
5. Students will not talk during the lecture. Talking to your neighbor disrupts the class. Respect everyone's time and money and allow the instructor to do their job.
6. **All cellular phones, media players, or other personal electrical devices will remain off** inside the lecture room.
7. **No food or beverages other than bottled water** are allowed in classrooms.
8. No guests are allowed in class.
9. Challenges or harassment of faculty or staff members, either verbal or otherwise including inappropriate gestures, by students are unacceptable.
10. Each student will accept responsibility for his/her own academic success.

### **Conclusion**

The rules established herein are not negotiable. The student's enrollment in this course shall be interpreted as his/her consent to abide by the guidelines stated above. These rules are in addition to those stated in the Student Code of Conduct published each semester in the Schedule of Classes. Any student who believes they have been subjected to an unfair action should first speak with their instructor. A formal student grievance procedure is also available as a last resort.

## **Disabled Student Program and Services (DSPS)**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations are encouraged to contact the DSPS located in SSB 320, as soon as possible to ensure that, if they qualify, we can make arrangements in this course in a timely fashion. Contact DSPS: Phone 310.287.4450.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

**Don't cheat.** It cheapens your education, as well as the education people seek at this institution. I will not tolerate cheating in any way! If I notice you cheating during a quiz or test, you will receive an 'F' for that assignment or an 'F' in the class and reported to the college administration. Cheating can be done by talking, looking at other papers, leaving notes open 'accidentally' on the floor in front of you, or using someone's calculator, etc. Do not make me question your integrity by doing anything that seems like cheating. You are expected to do your own work, because you are getting your own grade for this course. **No Warnings will be given!**

## General Notes:

- If you get 4 absences (a tardy counts as an absence) it is VERY LIKELY you will be dropped from the class. Being in class is so important, you will miss too much if you miss class.
- You must have a textbook. If you are waiting for your text to arrive, please use the reserve copies in the library to keep up with homework.
- Homework will be collected in batches, therefore you must manage your time wisely.
- No makeup quizzes or exams.
- No books, no notes for exams. Some exams will require no calculators.
- No extra credit.
- Showing up to class does not guarantee you will pass. Generally, studying hard will result in a good grade, but DO NOT expect a good grade if you do not study enough.

## How to Study for this Math Course!

- **Time!** You need to make time for this class. Because of the high volume of material covered in this course, class time is not allocated for review of material from previous lecture. Please come to office hours, or take advantage of free tutors in HLRC.
- Practicing is essential! You need to put more time into this course because math builds on itself. Practice without using your note and help before an exam to get a real expectation of how you would do on an exam or quiz. Pick problems from the homework and see if you can get them correct with no help.
- Be patient! It takes more than one time to get a process. Give yourself a chance to make mistakes. If you still do not understand a concept, try other problems in the section, and come and talk to me in office hours.
- **Don't erase your practice.** If you make a mistake, you will want to be able to go back and review your work to see if you can find it. If you can't, it will be a lot easier for me to see where the mistake was with your work in front of me. Help me, help you!
- **Read your text** beforehand! It will be nice if you already have an idea of what I am going to talk about before class. Even if it seems a little overwhelming, you will want to read it with a pencil and paper, jot down some notes, and get an idea of how to work out some problems. Trust me, it will be clearer when we go over it in class, and if you check it out before, you will most likely get it right away.
- Don't be afraid to **ask questions!** When you ask questions, it tells me what I might have skipped, and what you all might be a little fuzzy on. Trust me, if you have a question, there is a 90% chance that someone else has the same one, they are just too chicken to speak up! If you are still unclear how to do something, come to office hours.