

Instructor: I-Shen Lai**Email:** ishenlai@yahoo.com**Voicemail:** (310)434-8080**Homepage:** http://homepage.smc.edu/lai_i-shen**Etudes:** Know how to log on to Etudes. Once Etudes is activated, all course material will be posted on Etudes and not on my homepage.

REQUIRED TEXT: Beginning & Intermediate Algebra by Lial, Hornsby & McGinnis. The Bookstore has a WLAC Custom Edition which is substantially the same as the regular 5th ed (2012, ISBN- 9780321715869). The remainder of the book will be used in Math 123B and 123C.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & SUPPLIES: Notebook, binder, sharpened or mechanical pencil, eraser, ruler, stapler, basic calculator.

Calculator policy: Calculator use and allowance on exams will be announced in class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

First of three modules for Math 123 covering elementary algebra topics such as properties and operations with real numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication of algebraic expressions, solution of linear equations and inequalities. Solution of word problems involving linear equations and inequalities.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory score on the Placement test, or Math 110 or Math 112 with a grade of “C” or better.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon the successful completion of Math 123A students should be able to:

- Apply quantitative thinking processes using basic mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) to solve common academic, workplace, and family problems. (Theme: mathematical operations)
- Use mathematical tools essential for analyzing quantitative problems and for producing solutions. (Theme: mathematical tools)
- Select appropriate math strategies for solving and handling real life problems involving finance, economics, and family issues. (Theme: mathematical problem-solving)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Add, subtract, multiply and divide integers, rational and irrational numbers
- Translate English mathematical sentences into algebraic expressions
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide algebraic expressions
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide algebraic expressions containing exponents
- Demonstrate the use of scientific notation when multiplying and dividing real numbers
- Solve a variety of first degree equations and inequalities. Solve a variety of word problems involving first degree equations and inequalities
- Compute the slope of a straight line.
- Draw graphs of straight lines and inequalities
- Solve systems of equations in two variables by graphing.
- Determine the degree of a polynomial.
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide polynomials
- Find the Greatest common factor (GCF) of several algebraic expressions. Factor a variety of polynomials by use of the GCF, difference of perfect squares and trinomials techniques.

COMMUNITY (a.k.a. CLASS CONDUCT and GOALS)

Community is built on mutual trust and respect. Every class is a community of learners, and we can enjoy this semester better if we become a team with a common goal. In order to learn and thrive in this class, we all need to invest the time and effort necessary for success.

I will hold very high standards and expectations for you. I trust that you will take this class very seriously and will work to the best of your ability; you will come to class on time, ready to learn and participate; you will complete the homework daily; you will seek help when needed; you will be prepared for exams; and you will abide by the Academic Honor Code. **DO NOT BREAK THIS TRUST!**

You can hold me accountable as your teacher—I will commit to do my very best to teach, to motivate, to support, to be available, and to walk alongside you on this 16-week journey.

Have the right attitude, and you may be surprised at what a wonderful, fun, fruitful semester this could be. ☺

CLASSROOM CONDUCT + CELLPHONE/ELECTRONICS POLICY:

In order to maintain this trust, please be respectful to your instructor and fellow students. Refrain from talking during lectures. Do not leave the classroom (or walk in and out) or pack up before you are dismissed. Silence your phones and do not use your phone or electronic devices in class. Repeated warnings for disruptive behavior or phone usage may result in disciplinary consequences including suspension or withdrawal from the class.

ATTENDANCE, DROP AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory. You should plan to arrive to each class *on time* and *stay for the entire class session*. If you are absent four times, you may be dropped from the class. If you miss part of a class (late or leave early), it counts as half an absence. These will reflect poorly on your grade.

You will be responsible for all announcements made in class. If you miss class, please be sure to contact a classmate for all announcements.

Although I retain the right to drop you given the above circumstances, it is nevertheless your responsibility as a student to withdraw from class if you do not intend to complete it. If you wish to drop this class, you may do so online or in person through Admissions up to the last day to drop. Please be aware of all college deadlines. **Last day to drop without a W: 9/11. Last day to drop with a W: 11/20.**

METHODS OF PRESENTATION:

LECTURE (majority of class time)

Most of my lectures are interactive, and I welcome participation and feedback such as answers or questions, when I ask for them and they are not distracting or disruptive. Be an active participant during lectures by listening attentively and taking good, neat notes. Please refrain from talking among yourselves, not even about the math topic at hand. If you have a question about the lecture, write it down until an appropriate time arises in which you can ask it, usually when I pause and ask for questions, or after class.

SEATWORK/GROUPWORK/CLASS ACTIVITIES

When time allows, I may pose a problem for you to work out at your seat individually, in pairs, or in groups. Be an active participant in such activities. This is when you may discuss problems with each other as well as ask me questions. Abide by the time limits and be ready to stop discussion and return to lecture time when directed to do so. Such work may or may not be collected.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE (a.k.a. academic dishonesty will result in serious consequences)

Pursuant to West Los Angeles College's "Standards of Student Conduct", all forms of cheating and plagiarism are absolutely forbidden. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students and the college, policies on academic integrity are strictly enforced. Students should read WLAC's publication on student conduct on cheating & plagiarism outlined in the College Catalog or at http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_Catalog08-10_Policies41-53.pdf

METHODS OF EVALUATION

CLASSWORK

Class work may be assigned at any time, and may or may not be collected. You have to be present and participating in order to receive credit. General participation will also count towards your grade, and non-attendance and/or non-participation will count negatively towards your grade.

ASSIGNMENTS / WORKSHEETS (TAKE-HOME)

Graded worksheets may be assigned for take-home assignments. They are due on the due dates. No late worksheets will be accepted. Grading criteria will be announced.

QUIZZES

There may be quizzes (announced) throughout the semester. No make-up quizzes for any reason, but quiz corrections (due the day after quizzes are returned) will be accepted for up to 70% of the points.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be progressively assigned. You are expected to keep up DAILY with the homework. Homework is due on the due dates (exam days). Please read homework guidelines on the last page. As an allowance, two homework packets may be turned in late (within 2 class days) with no penalty. Beyond two late packets, no other packets can be turned in late.

EXAMS

Five exams and a final exam make up the bulk of your grade in this class. In general, you should be passing your exams in order to make satisfactory and consistent progress toward passing the class.

No make-up exams will be given under any circumstance. The lowest exam score will be dropped. If you miss an exam, that will be the dropped score. Any additional missed exam will receive a score of zero.

The cumulative department final exam cannot be missed and must be taken on the college-scheduled date.

BASIS OF GRADING:

Course requirements are weighted as follows:

Classwork / Quizzes / Assignments	10%
Homework	8%
Best 4 of 5 exams 14% x 4	56%
Final Exam	26%
Total	100%

OVERALL GRADING SCALE:

The course grade will be determined as follows:
(Adjustments may be made at instructor's discretion)

A	90% – 100%
B	80% – 89%
C	70% – 79%
D	55% – 69%
F	below 55%

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

I encourage students requesting disability-related accommodations to contact Disabled Student Services as soon as possible. An early notification of your request for test-taking and/or other accommodations is necessary to ensure that your disability related needs are addressed appropriately. HRLC 119 (phone 310-287-4450)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

subject to change

Week	Date	Topics
1	M 8/31	Welcome and Introductions
	T 9/1	Review
	W 9/2	1.1 Fractions
	Th 9/3	1.1
2	(M 9/7)	No class (Labor Day)
	T 9/8	1.2 Exponents, Order of Operations, Inequality
	W 9/9	1.3 Variables, Expressions, Equations
	Th 9/10	1.4 Real numbers; number line
3	M 9/14	1.5 Adding and subtracting real numbers
	T 9/15	1.6 Multiplying and Dividing real numbers
	W 9/16	1.7 Properties of real numbers
	Th 9/17	1.8 Simplifying expressions
4	M 9/21	2.1 The addition property of equality
	T 9/22	2.2 The multiplication property of equality
	W 9/23	Review
	Th 9/24	Exam 1 ; HW DUE
5	M 9/28	2.3 More on solving linear equations
	T 9/29	2.3
	W 9/30	2.4 Applications
	Th 10/1	Continued
6	M 10/5	2.5 Formulas
	T 10/6	2.6 Ratio, proportion, percent
	W 10/7	2.6, 2.7 Applications
	Th 10/8	2.7
7	M 10/12	2.7
	T 10/13	Review
	W 10/14	Exam 2 ; HW DUE
	Th 10/15	2.8 Linear inequalities
8	M 10/19	2.8
	T 10/20	3.1 Linear equations in two variables; rectangular coordinate system
	W 10/21	3.2 Graphing linear equations
	Th 10/22	3.3 The slope of a line
9	M 10/26	3.3
	T 10/27	3.4 Writing and graphing equations of lines
	W 10/28	3.4
	Th 10/29	Review
10	M 11/2	Exam 3 ; HW DUE
	T 11/3	4.1 The product and power rule for exponents
	W 11/4	4.2 Integer exponents and the quotient rule
	Th 11/5	4.2
11	M 11/9	4.4 Adding and subtracting polynomials
	T 11/10	4.5 Multiplying polynomials
	W 11/11	No class (Veteran's Day)
	Th 11/12	4.6 Special products

12	M 11/16	4.7 Dividing polynomials
	T 11/17	4.7
	W 11/18	Review
	Th 11/19	Exam 4 ; HW DUE
13	M 11/23	5.1 GCF; factor by grouping
	T 11/24	5.1
	W 11/25	5.2 Factoring trinomials
	Th 11/26	No class (Thanksgiving)
14	M 11/30	5.3 More on factoring trinomials
	T 12/1	5.3
	W 12/2	5.4 Special factoring
	Th 12/3	5.5 Solving quadratic equations by factoring
15	M 12/7	5.5
	T 12/8	Exam 5 ; HW DUE
	W 12/9	5.6; Review
	Th 12/10	Review
16	(M 12/14)	No class (finals week)
	(T 12/15)	No class (finals week)
	W 12/16	FINAL EXAM (Cumulative) 8 - 10 AM

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES (Be prepared, be organized, be successful!)

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts. -John Wooden
Failure to prepare is preparing to fail. - John Wooden

Tools:

- **BEST type of paper to use:** College-ruled filler/binder paper. IF you use notebook paper and tear it out, please REMOVE frayed edges before submission.
- **BEST type of pencil to use:** Mechanical/automatic pencil 0.5mm. If you use regular pencils, make sure to sharpen it! Avoid using pens for work. Have an eraser.
- **Straightedge/ruler:** For drawing lines neatly.
- **Colored pen:** Have a red/blue/green pen available for corrections and comments.
- **Stapler:** All homework MUST be stapled.
- **Binder with dividers:** To keep homework, activities, notes, quizzes/exams organized.

HW write-up guidelines (your homework will NOT be graded if these are not followed):

- Start each section on a new page. Write the textbook section number and assigned problems at the top of the page. Keep pages organized. You can use both sides of the paper.
- Do not crowd problems together. There should be NO MORE than 2 problems on each line (no more than 2 columns). If you wish to divide the page into two columns, fold the paper or draw a line down the middle with a ruler. Leave a line between problems.
- Number your problems clearly (in the margin or circled).
- Write out solutions neatly, step-by-step, according to the format shown in class or in the book.
- CHECK answers in the back of the textbook or solutions manual *after* you have tried the problems:
 - After every few problems, check your answers to make sure you're on the right track.
 - Use a colored pen to correct your work. If you got a problem wrong, redo it correctly, writing comments about where you went wrong/what you should take note of.
 - Mark problems that were difficult for you so you can return to these problems for review.
 - Mark problems that you couldn't complete. ASK right away (in class if time allows, office hours, tutors, classmates), and once you have an idea or seen the solution, try to redo it yourself.
- Word problems do not need to be copied out, but you must show correct work in your solutions, including a complete sentence at the end which answers the question.
- ALL WORK must be shown neatly and legibly.
- *If work is not shown with the correct steps or if it is too messy, you will not receive credit.*
If ANY part of your homework contains only final answers with no work, the entire homework packet will receive no credit.

*Homework that shows signs of copying (whether from the answers or someone else) will receive no credit. If ANY part of your homework contains only final answers with no work, the entire homework packet will receive no credit. Excessive copying will be treated as academic dishonesty.

- Check out www.purplemath.com and read the article "How to suck up to your teacher" for more sample homework.