

## Initial Course Syllabus

### Basic Course Information

West Los Angeles College Mathematics 123B – section 4479 – 4:30 – 6:35 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays

Elementary/Intermediate Algebra – second part of three parts – MSA 106 - fall, 2015

Mr. Stillson – office hours Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 – 4:25PM in MSA106

Contact – (310) 287-4219 (mathematics department) or [astillson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:astillson@sbcglobal.net)

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in Math 123A or placement by Math Dept.

Continuation: Grade of C or better in Math 123A, 123B and 123C meets elementary and intermediate algebra requirements.

Textbook: *Beginning and Intermediate Algebra* – Lial, Hornsby and McGinnis – 5th edition

Purpose of course – understanding of basic algebraic concepts and their applications

General learning goals – facility and understanding of topics covered

Format – homework and/or quiz review, new concepts, applications, weekly quiz

Instructional methods – instructor presentation with note-taking, student practice

Computer support – If you use My Math Lab for computer support, the access code is stillson20621

### This course is designed to comply with West Los Angeles College Student Learning Outcomes (SLO).

1. **Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.
2. **Quantitative Reasoning:** Identify, analyze, and solve problems that are quantitative in nature.
3. **Technical Competence:** Utilize the appropriate technology effectively for informational, academic, personal and professional needs.

### This course is designed to comply with the following Mathematics Program Outcomes:

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

### This course has the following objectives:

Add, subtract, multiply and divide rational expressions. Solve a variety of equations and inequalities involving rational expressions. Solve a variety of word problems involving rational expressions. Compute the slope of a straight line. Find the equation of a straight line, given its slope and a point. Draw graphs of straight lines and inequalities. Understand the use of the  $f(x)$  notation. Simplify roots and radicals. Understand the use of algebraic expressions containing fractional exponents. Find the solution to equations involving radicals and fractional exponents. Solve second degree equations by factoring using the greatest common factor (GCF), difference of perfect squares and trinomials, and using the quadratic formula. Solve word problems involving second degree equations. Add, subtract, multiply and divide complex numbers.

Tentative Schedule - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30PM – 6:35PM

Starting 9/1 and ending 12/17 – no classes on 11/26 - Final on 12/17 at 4:30PM (2 hours)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Sections</u>   | <u>Date</u> | <u>Sections</u>   | <u>Date</u> | <u>Sections</u>   |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 9/1         | 5.1-5.3           | 9/3         | 5.4               | 9/8         | 5.5-5.6           |
| 9/10        | review and quiz 1 | 9/15        | 6.1-6.2           | 9/17        | 6.3-6.4           |
| 9/22        | 6.5-6.7           | 9/24        | review and quiz 2 | 9/29        | 7.1-7.2           |
| 10/1        | 7.3-7.4           | 10/6        | 7.5-7.6           | 10/8        | review and quiz 3 |
| 10/13       | 8.2-8.3           | 10/15       | 8.4               | 10/20       | 8.5-8.6           |
| 10/22       | review and quiz 4 | 10/27       | 9.1               | 10/29       | 9.2               |
| 11/3        | 9.3               | 11/5        | review and quiz 5 | 11/10       | 10.1-10.2         |
| 11/12       | 10.3              | 11/17       | 10.4              | 11/19       | review and quiz 6 |
| 11/24       | 10.5              | 11/26       | holiday           | 12/1        | 10.6 - 10.7       |
| 12/3        | review and quiz 7 | 12/8        | cumulative review | 12/10       | cumulative review |
| 12/15       | cumulative review | 12/17       | final exam        |             |                   |

## **Grading System**

Grading: 55% quizzes, 40% final, 5% homework

Quizzes: Given the last hour on days when scheduled.

Quiz format: 10 questions – each question graded 10 for right – 5 for partially right – 0 for wrong answer and no work shown – 4 for omitted.

Homework: for practice and for understanding – counted into grade – checked from 12/3 – 12/12

Final computation: based on weighted percentages – A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 0-59

## **Policies**

Absence and tardiness always indirectly affect performance. If a student has more than 4 absences, I reserve the option to exclude said student.

There are no make-up quizzes. There are 7 scheduled quizzes and the quiz average is based on the number of quizzes taken. Students who take 6 or 7 quizzes will have the lowest quiz grade excluded from the average. Students who take less than 5 quizzes will be given a score of 50 on all quizzes needed to make 5. All quizzes are open book, open notes, calculator okay. Students who enter the class late will have quiz grades adjusted according to how many weeks were taken.

The final exam is for 2 hours and will have 20 questions – similar scoring system. Students missing the final exam will be given a grade of 50.

Homework is checked 12/8 through 12/17 and graded 100% if attempted or 0% if not attempted. An extra credit problem sheet with 5 problems will be passed out over Thanksgiving break. It's optional and each right answer adds 5 extra points to quiz total.

Breaks: 10 minute break at 5:25.

Standards of student conduct: according to the West L.A. College schedule

Other: plagiarism is prohibited, cell phones and pagers should be off, calculators okay.

## **Advice**

Allow as much time as possible for homework and study.

Write clearly and put your name on quizzes.

Do the homework as scheduled to get maximum benefit when it's answered and explained.

Additional practice is always good – such as odd-number questions and computer help.

Try the extra credit.

Prepare a note folder for quizzes.

Have homework ready for checking near end of semester.

## **About Mr. Stillson**

Masters in mathematics and MBA

20 years of teaching experience – college and secondary school

27 years of business world experience

Author of puzzle and books and theater musicals – see [stillsonworks.com](http://stillsonworks.com)

## **Homework Assignment Sheet – Math 123B**

| Due date | Section number and questions (even number questions will be reviewed) |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9/3      | 5.1 – 50-54, 80-82    5.2 – 36-40, 58-60    5.3 – 34,36,64            |
| 9/8      | 5.4 – 8,10,18,56,60                                                   |
| 9/10     | 5.5 – 50-56, 66,68    5.6 - 12                                        |
| 9/17     | 6.1 – 40-44, 52-54,    6.2 – 42-46                                    |
| 9/22     | 6.4 – 40-46, 52                                                       |
| 9/24     | 6.5 – 28,30    6.6 – 50,52,70,74,90    6.7 – 38,40                    |
| 10/1     | 7.1 – 10,12,28,30,48a,50a    7.2 – 36b-40b, 56b-58b, 70a,72b          |
| 10/6     | 7.3 – 26,30    7.4 – 4-14                                             |
| 10/8     | 7.5 – 68-76    7.6 – 28-34                                            |
| 10/15    | 8.2 – 4,6    8.3 – 14-22                                              |
| 10/20    | 8.4 – 4-12                                                            |
| 10/22    | 8.5 – 12,34    8.6 – 20,22 (with or without matrix)                   |
| 10/29    | 9.1 – 36-46 interval only                                             |
| 11/3     | 9.2 – 28-34, 52-56                                                    |
| 11/5     | 9.3 – 28,30,34,38,44,46                                               |
| 11/12    | 10.1 – 100-104    10.2 – 26-32                                        |
| 11/17    | 10.3 – 38-48, 64-68, 114-116                                          |
| 11/19    | 10.4 – 2-10, 14-16                                                    |
| 12/1     | 10.5 – 8,18,22,24,46,48,84,86                                         |
| 12/3     | 10.6 – 8,10,28,30,34    10.7 – 30,34,56,64,68,72                      |

**IT IS UP THE STUDENT WHO WISHES TO ADD OR DROP THIS COURSE TO DO IT ON A TIMELY BASIS.**