

Course Syllabus – Math 123A - Section 1485
T – Th, MSA 006, 9:35 – 10:50 am
Spring of 2015

Mr. Borsum, E-mail: borsumjs@wlac.edu,

Office hours: Monday, 9:20 – 10:50 am, MSA 006

Welcome to Elementary and Intermediate Algebra! Math 123A 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. Topics will include the real number system, linear equations and inequalities in one variable, linear equations in two variables, exponents and polynomials, and factoring and applications. (We will cover the first 5 chapters of the textbook.)

Prerequisite: Mathematics 110 or 112 with a grade of “C” or better, or appropriate placement level demonstrated through the mathematics assessment process. This is absolutely mandatory! Math 115 assumes *a mastery of pre-algebra upon entry* in order to facilitate the ability to use algebra to solve problems that arise in many types of situations. Should you enter the class without this mastery of pre-algebra topics, it will be very difficult to be successful in the course.

Text: Beginning & Intermediate Algebra, by Lial, Hornsby, and McGinnis, 5th edition

Materials: Students should bring a math notebook (with graph paper), pencils, an appropriate calculator (see below), and the text to class each day.

Students with Disabilities: Please contact Disabled Students Programs and Services located in SSB 320 *immediately* to arrange accommodations. They can be reached at (310) 287-4450. The instructor will provide all accommodations officially approved by DSPS.

Tutoring: Sometimes, it is helpful to see a demonstration that differs from what is presented in class. Free tutoring is provided in the Learning Resource Center, commonly called the Library. For a complete schedule and for questions, they can be reached at (310) 287-4404. Their hours of operation are:
Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Explore online sites like www.khanacademy.org. Visit your instructor during the office hours posted at the top of this page.

Appropriate Calculator: Calculators or laptops with symbolic manipulation capabilities, graphing capabilities, and calculators built into devices with communication capabilities (such as a smart phone) are *not* allowed on exams and quizzes. However, the solutions to some problems may require the use of a basic four-function or scientific calculator. If you do not have an appropriate calculator with you during an exam or quiz, you will *not* be allowed to share with another student, even if the other student’s assessment has been turned in.

Homework: Students should plan to work on math *outside* of class for as many as 8 hours each week. **Reading the upcoming sections and completing the problems should be done before the next class meeting.** Since homework is a basic requirement of the course, it is expected that you will thoroughly complete the assignments, with a goal of *understanding* each problem. Too often, students have only a surface knowledge of the problems. Complete solutions for all textbook problems *may* be found online. Please make a concerted effort to solve all problems on your own before consulting solutions for assistance. Remember, solutions are not available to you when you are completing the exams and quizzes in class!

Algebra Format: When simplifying an expression or solving an equation, one should write each step in the process *below* the previous step. It is rare to have more than one “=” sign in any one horizontal line of algebraic work. Therefore, it is often convenient to show your solutions to algebraic exercises in two columns of a standard page of paper. Use pencil and *erase* when making corrections.

Calendar: I am providing a calendar showing holidays, drop deadlines, dates of exams. The purpose of homework is to practice for exams. *It is important that you review and understand all example problems in each section.* The course includes a great deal of material, so it is important that you use the homework problems to develop a thorough *understanding* of the mathematics.

Assessments: There will be five 100-point exams and a 200-point cumulative final exam. These assessments may contain free response or multiple-choice questions. Your best four 100-point exams will be counted. Should you be absent for an exam, it will be the one that doesn’t count. Should you miss additional exams, you will receive a score of “0” on each of those exams. You **must** take the final exam during the scheduled time on Thursday, June 3, or you will receive an “F” in the course.

4 exams count 100 points each: 400 points (poorest score of 5 exams is dropped)
1 final exam counts 200 points: 200 points (the final exam is NEVER dropped)

Total possible: 600 points

Grades: A standard letter-grade scale will be used:

A: 90% - 100%; B: 80% - 89.99%; C: 70% – 79.99%; D: 60% - 69.99%

Fail: below 60%

Attendance: Students are expected to be in class **on time** every day and to participate in class activities. Missed in-class activities cannot be made up. College policy states that the instructor may drop a student who has missed more than three class meetings. I intend to exercise this option, especially if you are not maintaining at least a “C” in the course.

Academic Dishonesty: If you are discovered to be committing any act of academic dishonesty (cheating), you will receive no credit (zero) for the assessment and will be suspended from class. The case will be referred to the Vice-President for Student Affairs. For further information, see the WLAC Catalogue and Schedule of Classes.

Important dates:	Last day to drop without a “W”:	Friday, February 20
	Last day to drop with a “W”:	Friday, May 8
	Final exam:	June 3, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm

If you decide you cannot finish the course with a satisfactory grade, it is your responsibility to <i>withdraw officially</i> , on or before Friday, May 8, 2015 .

Additional Notes:

- Please abide by the college policy of no food or beverage in class, other than water.
- Please turn off all electronic devices, other than graphing calculators.
- Students are advised to form informal study groups outside of class. Most students find that this enhances success for everyone involved.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions in class or during my office hours.

College-Wide Student Learning Outcomes: Successful students will demonstrate cognitive learning of course material through the synthetic and evaluative levels. They will be able to:

- **Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.
- **Communication:** In your math papers and on tests you will be expected to show and explain your work in a clear, well-organized manner.
- **Quantitative Reasoning:** Identify, analyze, and solve problems that are quantitative in nature.
- **Apply self-assessment and reflection strategies** to learn from mistakes and to seek better methods to solve particular problems.
- **Civic Responsibility:** Students are expected to respect classmates as well as the instructor. This includes refraining from disruptive behavior (coming late, leaving early, wandering in and out of class, eating/drinking during class, side conversations, text messaging, etc.) and practicing positive behaviors (cooperation, civility, helpfulness, constructive engagement in class activity).
- **Technical Competence:** Utilize the appropriate technology effectively for informational, academic, personal, and professional needs.
- **Ethics:** All students will maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. You may NOT give or receive help on assessments. You may not turn in another's work as your own. If you are discovered committing any act of academic dishonesty, you will receive no credit for the assessment or assignment AND the case will be referred to the Dean for further disciplinary action.
- **Aesthetics:** Mathematicians often speak of a "beautiful" or "elegant" method of solving a problem. We hope you will find aesthetic experiences in your mathematical work.

Mathematics Student Learning Outcomes: Successful students will be able to:

- Apply quantitative thinking processes using basic mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) to solve common academic, workplace, and family problems. (Theme: quantitative thinking; mathematical operations)
- Analyze and interpret spatial and graphic data (schedules, maps, tables, graphs, and geometric figures). (Theme: spatial and graphic data)
- Use mathematical tools essential for analyzing quantitative problems and for producing solutions. (Theme: mathematical tools)
- Apply advanced mathematical concepts and tools (algebra, calculus) essential in upper division academic work and/or workplace tasks. (Theme: advanced mathematical operations – algebra, calculus)
- Select appropriate math strategies for solving and handling application problems involving finance, economics, and family issues. (Theme: mathematical problem solving)

Math 123A Student Learning Outcomes: Successful students will be able to:

- Perform basic operations on rational numbers and polynomials, using correct order of operations.
- Use appropriate techniques to solve linear and factorable-quadratic equations and linear inequalities.
- Write and graph linear equations in two variables: analyze slope and intercepts.
- Factor polynomials.
- Solve problems using ratio, proportion, and percent.
- Analyze, model, and solve "story" problems (applications) using the techniques outlined in the second bullet.
- Locate and utilize supplemental resources online and in textbooks.

Math 123A Calendar – Spring of 2015

WLAC – Mr. Borsum

- The following calendar shows sections to be discussed in class on each meeting day.
- This schedule is subject to change by the instructor.
- Homework on each section should be completed by the next class meeting.
- Homework will *not* be checked. However, if you have a thorough understanding of the odd-numbered problems in each section, you should find exam questions to be similar.
- Specific problem assignments will be provided in class.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
2/9	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	1.1	1.2	1.3
2/16	Presidents Day	1.4	1.5	1.6 Friday: Last day to drop with no W
2/23	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	1.7	1.8	Review
3/2	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	Exam: Chapter 1	2.1	2.2
3/9	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	2.3	2.4	2.5
3/16	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	2.6	2.7	2.8
3/23	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	Review	Exam: Chapter 2	3.1
3/30	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	Cesar Chavez Day	3.2	3.3
4/6	Spring Break!	Spring Break!	Spring Break!	Spring Break!
4/13	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	3.4	Review	Exam: Chapter 3
4/20	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	4.1	4.2	4.3
4/27	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	4.4	4.5	4.6
5/4	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	4.7	Review Friday: Last day to drop WITH a W	Exam: Chapter 4
5/11	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	5.1	5.2	5.3
5/18	Office Hours: MSA 006 9:20 – 10:50 am	5.4	5.5	5.6
5/25	Memorial Day	Exam: Chapter 5	Review	Review
6/1			Final Exam 10:15 am – 12:15 pm	