

Math 125	Intermediate Algebra
Fall 2014	Instructor: Dr. Agvanian

Section: 0355	Lecture Time: MW 10:35am – 1:05 pm
	Location: CMS 128
Office Hours: MW 1:40 PM – 2:30 PM	
Office Location: CMS128	
Telephone: (818) 364-7600 ext 4278	
E-mail: agvaniy@lamission.edu	
Course ID: agvanian54743	

Prerequisites: Math 115 with a grade of “C” or better, or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the Math assessment process, or by permit.

Textbook: *Beginning and Intermediate Algebra*, by Elayn Martin-Gay, Custom Edition for Los Angeles Mission College. The textbook is **highly recommended**. If you took Math 115 recently at LAMC, you may have bought this book and used MyMathLab to do the online assignments. In that case, you don’t need to buy anything for this class. If you didn’t buy the book mentioned above, nor used the MyMathLab courseware, then you may purchase the textbook from the bookstore. The book comes bundled with the code needed to access the online assignments. If you choose not to buy the textbook, you may purchase the code online through MyMathLab, and this will give you access to the e-book and the online assignments.

Calculators: Scientific calculators are required. Any kind will do the job. No graphing calculator, cell phone, IPOD, nor hand held computers are allowed during in class assessments.

Final: This course has a common departmental final. The final is cumulative and accounts for the biggest individual chunk of your grade. It covers everything we will learn throughout the semester, which is a lot! Keeping your notes organized and your exams and quizzes handy is important to do throughout the semester. Preparing good review sheets as you study for every exam will prove very useful at the end when you are getting ready for the final. The final will be on Wednesday December 17, from 10:00 am - 12:00pm. It has a free response part and a multiple choice part. You must take the final to pass the class. No make-up finals will be allowed.

Exams: There will be five exams. They are all free response, and they cover about two chapters worth of material each. Students are not allowed to use notes during exams. The tentative testing schedule is given in the timeline at the end of this syllabus. The lowest exam score is dropped. I strongly encourage you to study for and take ALL exams, because should circumstances force you to miss an exam, you will certainly appreciate the “freebie”.

Online Assignments: In order to access the required homework, quizzes, and practice tests you will need to register with MyMathLab online program and enroll in my section with the **course ID agvanian 54743**. The access code for MyMathLab will be packaged with the new textbook sold in the bookstore. Textbooks purchased online or at other bookstores may not include the access code for MyMathLab (MML). In that case students may purchase the access code for MyMathLab separately online at <http://www.mymathlab.com>.

You should work on your homework as each section is completed in class and you should attempt the tests as soon as the chapter is completed in class. It is your responsibility to complete all the online assignments by the stated due date shown online. Since MyMathLab does not grade each step of your work, it is important that you write down your work on paper showing all the steps clearly. This is important for me to be able to identify the mistakes you made, and to give you credit if deserved. All MyMathLab scores will be automatically transferred to the instructor after you hit the save/submit button. **No extensions will be granted**, however you can work on homework assignments past the due date for a 25% penalty per day on any missed problems.

Classwork: Classwork will be given regularly in the form of group work or individual work. Active learning is very effective, especially in a Math class. Classwork is also my way of taking attendance and checking that you were in class.

Grading: Final grades will be based on:

- Final exam – 25%
- 5 exams – 60% (each exam is worth 12 points)
- Online Homework – 10%
- Classwork – 5%

Your grade in the course is determined according to the following scale:

A: 90-100% B: 78-89% C: 60-77% D: 50-59% F: 49% and below

For borderline cases attendance, participation, and level of improvement on the final are considered.

Tutoring: If you have questions and/or cannot make it to office hours, or you just like to get more help, free tutoring is available at the STEM Center located in CMS 121. The hours of the Center are: Mon-Thu 10 AM – 8 PM, and Fri-Sat 10 AM – 2 PM.

Accommodations for DSPS students: Students requiring special accommodations in the classroom should communicate these requirements with the office of DSPS and the instructor. Forms are available in the DSPS office for this purpose. To be most effective, students must present their completed forms to the instructor by the end of the 2nd week of the semester. The instructor will then make all reasonable efforts to accommodate these requests. See Resources on next page for contact number.

Description: This course will prepare you for the next college-level math class such as Statistics, College Algebra, Calculus for Business and Social Science. There will be a brief review of concepts learned in Elementary Algebra using more challenging illustrations and examples. New topics include: rational exponents, nonlinear and absolute value inequalities, functions and their graphs, introduction to the conic sections, solving systems of three variables, second-degree systems, and an introduction to exponential and logarithmic functions.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

1. Solve, graph, and analyze various equations or systems of equations and inequalities.
2. Interpret, graph and analyze various functions.

Attendance: Regular and punctual attendance is expected from all of us. Unlike most other courses, missing just one mathematics class will immediately place you at a disadvantage because it is difficult, if not impossible, to catch up on the missed material by yourself. You are responsible for all material presented and discussed in every class meeting.

Withdrawals: If you stop attending the class (or wish to drop a class), YOU MUST DROP THE CLASS YOURSELF – *OFFICIALLY* – on or before November 23, 2014 (by internet only). Failure to do so may result in a grade of “F” in the class. A new state policy in effect as of 2012 limits students to **three attempts per course**. Receiving a grade or a “W” for a course counts as an attempt, **regardless of when the course was taken**. Withdrawal by the deadline to avoid a “W” will not count as an attempt. For fall 2014 the deadline to avoid a “W” is **Sunday, September 14th**.

Cell Phones: Please turn off your phones before coming to class. Class time is for learning and interacting with me and your classmates, not for personal or business calls.

Cheating: Any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If caught, you may be given a zero for that particular exam or quiz. The event will be reported to the Math Department Chair who will forward the report to the VP of student services for disciplinary action which may include suspension or expulsion.

Student Conduct: Students are expected to adhere to all school policies, and to abide by the standards of student conduct as described in the Schedule of Classes. Any infringement upon the rights of other students in the class, such as talking or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Miscellaneous: To be successful in this and any other math class, expect to spend **at least** two hours for every class hour. If you have prior engagement such as work and a full load schedule, it will affect your success in this class. Please stop by my office any time throughout the semester and let me know how I can help you. The majority of the learning that you do in college courses takes place outside of class. What you get out of this class is a function of what you put into it. Mathematics is not a spectator sport. You have to put in the work to see the results!

Important Dates for Fall 2014:

Last day to add classes:	Friday, September 12
Last day to drop without a “W”:	Sunday, September 14
Last day to drop with a “W”:	Sunday, November 23
Math 125 Final Exam:	Wednesday, Dec 17 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Resources:

- **Bookstore:** For hours of operation, book availability, buybacks, and other information call (818) 364-7798 or 364-7768 or visit: <http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/>
- **Counseling Department:** For appointments and information call (818) 364-7655 or visit <https://www.lamission.edu/counseling/>
- **Disabled Students Programs and Services:** For appointments and information call (818) 364-7732 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/dsps/>
- **Extended Opportunity Programs and Services:** For appointments and information call (818) 364-7645 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/eops/>
- **Financial Aid:** For information and applications call (818) 364-7648 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/financialaid/>
- **Library:** For information on library hours, resources, workshops, and other services contact (818) 364-7105 or 364-7106 or <http://www.lamission.edu/library/>
- **Tutoring Services in Learning Center:** Laboratories for Learning, Writing, Math & Science. Walk-in and appointment services offered. Call (818) 364-7754 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/learningcenter/>
- **STEM Center:** Free Math tutoring, computer and internet access. Call (818) 364-7811 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/mathcenter/>
- **STEM Program:** For those interested in pursuing a science, technology, engineering and math, please call the STEM counselor Marina Sangkavichai at (818) 833-3425 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/stem/>

1. **Attend class--** Choose to attend all class periods on time and don't leave early. If you are absent on a day that a test is given, you lose the points for that test. Also, knowledge in any math class is extremely cumulative. What you miss one day will continue to hurt you throughout the rest of the course.
2. **Pay attention--** Pay attention in class, participate in class discussions, and ask questions. The instructor regularly gives away tips for exams, so make sure you take note of them.
3. **Do all homework--** Do or attempt all homework not for the sake of just doing it, but trying to understand the concepts, learning them in the process. "Practice makes perfect" applies not only to music and sports, but also in mathematics. Be sure to schedule sufficient time to complete your assigned tasks before the next class period.
4. **Get help--** Know how to get help if you need it. Consult instructor during posted office hours. These hours are for you to visit me and ask questions and express any concerns you have. Use the resources available to you for free (especially the Math Center which provides drop-in Math tutoring).
5. **Keep up with all work--** Getting behind will "snowball" on you very rapidly. Do your homework on a daily basis.
6. **Study math everyday--** Don't leave all the work until the weekend. No one can "digest" so much math all at once, no matter how much time you spend trying. Math is best studied in bite-sized, digestible pieces. That means studying a few hours every day.
7. **Read the text--** Reading your math text should be done slowly and carefully... it doesn't read like a novel or a magazine. It is important that you learn the language of math; you cannot succeed in any math course without learning to express yourself in that language. Only by reading your text carefully and regularly can you learn it. Also, make sure to check the additional resources available at the beginning or the end of the textbook.
8. **Get Organized--** Organize your class materials, including homework assignments, graded quizzes and tests, notes and any worked out review problems. These items will make valuable references when studying for upcoming tests and the final exam.
9. **Find other students to study with.** Group work can be very productive, and is very much encouraged. You'll be given opportunity to work in a group so exchange email and phone numbers with a couple of students in the class.

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

10. **Strive for understanding not just rote memory.** Understanding greatly enhances your ability to comprehend later material. Memory is unreliable, and temporary. Understanding is intense, never lost...and exciting!

Math 125 Fall 2014 Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Monday	Wednesday
1	Sep 01 / Sept 03	Labor Day: No Class	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
2	Sep 08 / Sept 10	3.5, 3.6, 3.7	4.1, 4.2, 4.3
3	Sep 15 / Sept 17	4.4, 4.5, 4.6	4.7, 5.1, 5.2
4	Sep 22 / Sept 24	5.3, 5.4, 5.5	5.6, 5.7, 6.1
5	Sep 29 / Oct 01	Ch 3, 4, 5 Test	6.2, 6.3, 6.4
6	Oct 06 / Oct 08	6.5, 6.5 A, 6.6	7.1, 7.2, 7.3
7	Oct 13 / Oct 15	7.4, 7.5, 8.1	Ch 6,7 Test
8	Oct 20 / Oct 22	8.2, 8.3, 8.4	8.5, 8.6, 8.7
9	Oct 27 / Oct 29	9.1, 9.2, 9.3	9.5, 9.6, Ch 8 & 9 Test
10	Nov 03 / Nov 05	10.1, 10.2, 10.3	10.4, 11.1, 11.2
11	Nov 10 / Nov 12	11.3, 11.4	CH 10 & 11 Test
12	Nov 17 / Nov 19	12.1, 12.2	12.3, 12.4
13	Nov 24 /Nov 26	12.5, 12.6	12.7, 12.8
14	Dec 01 / Dec 03	13.1, 13.2	13.3, 13.4
15	Dec 08 / Dec 10	Ch 12 & 13 Test	Review for final
16	Dec 15 / Dec 17	Final Exam (10:00 AM to 12:00 PM)	