

**MATH 125 LA Mission College
CLASS SYLLABUS Fall 2012**

- Course:** **Intermediate Algebra**
Course Number 0358: Mon/Wed 11:35 am – 2:05 pm
- Instructor:** Mrs. D Renee Butler
Office: CMS 121 and 247
Office Hours: Before Oct 7: Mon/Wed 10:45 – 11:30 am CMS 247
After Oct 7: Mon/Wed 8:30 – 8:55 am CMS 247; 2:10 – 2:30 pm CMS 121
E-mail: butlerdr@lamission.edu
Messages: (818) 364-7600 ext 4279
- Text:** **Intermediate Algebra**, 9th Edition
J. Kaufmann and K. Schwitters, authors
- Important Dates:** Sept 7: Last day to drop WITHOUT a “W”
Nov 16: Last day to drop WITH a “W”
Dec 10: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm: FINAL EXAM

Student Learning Outcomes

This is an Intermediate Algebra course that covers chapters 1 to 11. A scientific calculator will be needed for this class. No graphing calculators, cell phone calculators or PDAs are allowed at any time.

From this class students will be able to:

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

Assignments: 10% of your grade

Homework is an important part of your success in this course. It is the best way to prepare you for the class discussions and tests. Homework will be assigned for each section we cover in class. You are expected to have it completed by the following class session; however, assignments will only be collected on the day of the exams. You will be tested on your skills in understanding concepts and using them to solve problems and interpret their results. These skills can only be acquired through practice.

Group work will be done in class. You will work in cooperative groups and be graded on the work assigned which usually covers material from the last few class sessions. *No make-ups will be given for group work.*

Tests: 60% of your grade

There will be 5 tests. All tests must be taken on the day assigned. THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS. If you have extenuating circumstances and know in advance that you will miss an exam, then it is possible to arrange to take it in advance, but only one rescheduled exam will be allowed. Missed exams will be scored as zero. However, one missed exam or your lowest exam grade will be replaced by the score you get on the final as long as this improves your grade. Tests are all closed book and closed notes. Scientific calculators will be allowed for the tests. No graphing calculators, cell phone calculators or iPods are allowed for the tests. No borrowing calculators in class during testing. No listening to iPods and no hats on during testing. No leaving the classroom during testing. Please come prepared.

Quizzes will be given and NOT necessarily announced in advance. *No make-ups will be given for quizzes.*

Final Exam: 30% of your grade

Keep your tests to study for the final exam. The final exam should be taken seriously and will require a good deal of dedication on your part in terms of study time. Several weeks before the final, you should begin reviewing your tests, notes and homework from the semester. The final exam date and time for this class is Monday, December 10 at 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. There is no rescheduling or exception to the day and time of the final exam.

Final Grade:	Assignments	10%	Grade Calculation	A = 90 - 100%
	Tests	60%		B = 80 - 89%
	Final Exam	30%		C = 70 - 79%
				D = 60 - 69%
				F = 0 - 59%

Border line grades will be determined by attendance, participation and level of improvement on the final.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend class regularly, arrive on time and stay for the entire class period. Good attendance shows me that you are putting forth effort. If you need to leave early, please let me know ahead of time. If you miss a class session, you are responsible for the material covered and the assignments for that session. It would be in your best interest to get class notes from another student.

(Remember, quizzes, group work and tests cannot be made up.)

The best way to contact me is by email: butlerdr@lamission.edu

****** Please note: In the subject area, type the name of this class: Math 125, and your name, or else I will not open the email.**

Students who are absent for any 2 of the first 3 class sessions **will be** automatically dropped from the class. Students who are absent for 1/3 of the days (about 10 days) we meet throughout the semester may be automatically dropped from the class.

Attendance is very important in a sequential course such as mathematics. To understand each topic, students need to know what came before. I encourage you to read the book before each class session. Your book contains study tips, and chapter summaries and reviews. Should class be cancelled, please read the material scheduled for that session and attempt the homework.

Classroom Behavior:

Please limit your talking to discussions with the instructor. Talking to the person next to you disturbs the whole class. The appropriate behavior for this class is in the “Standards of Student Conduct” which has been set forth in the Student Code of Conduct printed in the college schedule of classes and/or the college catalog. No electronic devices are allowed during class. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, PDAs, MP3 players, I-pods, laptops, cameras, or video and/or audio recording devices. All cell phones, pagers, and electronic devices are to be turned off. Thank you.

Academic Dishonesty

Honesty and integrity are integral components of the academic process. The “Student Academic Integrity Policy Statement” can be found in the college schedule of classes and/or the college catalog. Cheating will not be tolerated. Any evidence of academic dishonesty on an exam will result in a zero for that exam **and** it will not be your lowest exam grade that can be replaced by the score you get on the final. The zero **will be** factored into your grade. I will also report the incident to the Behavior Intervention Team as well as the Dean of Math & Science. A second occurrence will result in an F in the course. Note this policy applies to all parties involved including any person or persons whose work was copied

Tutoring

Form a study group with those in class. See me during my office hours or email me if you have questions. Visit the tutoring lab on campus in the library or in the math center. Make use of other services that you may be eligible for here at LA Mission College.

To succeed in this class:

- *Do the homework. Learning math takes practice and there is no better practice than working through the assigned problems.*
- *Ask questions. Feel free to ask questions during the lectures, especially when you are struggling.*
- *Read the book. It will answer a lot of your questions and help you understand the lectures better.*
- *Think positive. Do not get discouraged. Anyone can learn math. For some people, it takes a lot more hard work. You can do it.*

Homework will be turned in on the day of the associated exam. Write the problem down, show your work and give your answer. This will help you when it comes time to study for the tests because showing your steps logically and clearly will be important in getting full credit for your correct answers and a source of partial credit for your incorrect answers on the tests. However, I **will not grade** your chapter test until you turn in the homework. If you forget to bring your homework to the chapter test, you must turn it in by the **second class meeting** following the exam. Otherwise, I will record a score of zero for that test. I check homework before grading each exam. Standards for homework are as follows:

- Work must be reasonably neat (legible) and organized. "Organized" means:
 - Stapled or paper clipped in the upper left corner (or your name must appear in the upper right corner of every page). Note: **Do not assume** that there will be a stapler available in the classroom!
 - Section number (e.g., 2-3 or 8.1) appears at the top of every page *not in the upper left corner!*
 - Shredded edges on sheets from spiral notebooks are removed.
 - Problems are in numerical order and clearly numbered (so I can find random problems easily).
 - Problems are organized in rows and/or columns, not scattered around the page (again, so I can find random problems easily).
 - Each new section starts on a new sheet of paper (isn't hidden on the back side of some other section).
- At least 80% of problems must be attempted **and** at least two-thirds of problems must be completed. All work must be shown to receive points for this.
- I will check randomly selected problems for accuracy. All steps must be correct and answers must be correct to receive points for this.

If homework does not meet the above standards, I will reject it and return it to the student. I treat rejected homework as through it had never been turned in. Students have the two-class-meeting window described above to re-submit a new copy of the homework that meets the standards. A student's failure to remedy rejected homework within this two-class-meeting window will result in a zero exam score.

Your jobs are to (1) complete the assigned homework problems, (2) check your answers in the back of the book, *and* (3) obtain help if you cannot complete a problem or find your error(s).

Study Habits. You do not have to be Gauss (the Einstein of math) to understand mathematics, but you must cultivate good study habits. It is possible (although not desirable) to complete problems yet *not understand the underlying concepts*. Improving analytical problem-solving skills is an important, but secondary, goal of this course. The principal aim is to instill an awareness of basic mathematical principles. Try these steps:

- The textbook sections to be discussed at the next class meeting are posted on the tentative schedule. When you begin to study, quickly scan the headings, pictures, diagrams, and captions in these sections. Then go back and read the text. Do not worry too much if you do not understand everything the first time; it is more important to see the material so you know what to expect at the next lecture. Write down questions that come to mind as you read and ask these questions in class.
- As topics are discussed in class, study the appropriate paragraphs more carefully. Work the examples on scratch paper. Don't look at the answer right away. If you get stuck, look at the solution (one line at a time) for a hint. You may have to study a text section or example repeatedly before it begins to make sense.
- Try the homework problems *after* you study the text and your notes. Some students start with the homework problems, thinking that if they find similar examples and just plug in numbers, they save time because they don't have to read the text! Usually the problems are a bit different and this method doesn't work. Even if it does work, your understanding will be incomplete, as the tests will soon demonstrate.
- *Before* the homework assignment is due, check your answers in the back of the book. Ask other students to check your work. Work in groups (for moral support) and come to the tutoring lab.
- To prepare for tests, practice by working the examples and additional problems in each section. Many of the test problems are taken straight out of the text.
- *Plan* to spend 10 to 15 hours per week outside class (and perhaps more) studying mathematics.

Problem Solving. If you don't see a way to tackle a problem after 10–20 minutes or so, go to the next one and come back to it later (the next day, if possible). If this doesn't work, then get help. Bring your attempted solution to your helper (tutor, instructor, etc.); do *not* arrive with a blank sheet of paper (or with no paper at all!) At the very least, draw a completely labeled diagram and/or list the known and unknown quantities.

"If you think you can or think you can't, you're right." —Henry Ford

Tests may be rescheduled, announced in advance. The final cannot be rescheduled.
 Students who are absent for 1/3 of the days we meet may be automatically dropped from the class.

Week	Dates	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
1	Aug 27,29	1.1 -1.4, 2.1	2.2 – 2.5
2	Sept 3, 5	<i>Holiday – Labor Day No Class</i>	2.6, 2.7, 3.1 <i>Sept 7 Last day to drop without a W</i>
3	Sept 10, 12	3.2 – 3.4	3.5 – 3.7
4	Sept 17, 19	Test #1 on Ch 2&3 4.1, 4.2	4.3 – 4.5
5	Sept 24, 26	4.6, 4.7	5.1 – 5.3
6	Oct 1, 3	5.4 – 5.6	5.7, Review
7	Oct 8, 10	Test #2 on Ch 4&5 6.1, 6.2	6.3, 6.4
8	Oct 15, 17	6.5, 6.6	7.1, 7.2
9	Oct 22, 24	7.3, 7.4	7.5, Review
10	Oct 29, 31	Test #3 on Ch 6&7 8.1, 8.2	8.3, 8.4
11	Nov 5, 7	9.1 – 9.3	9.4, 9.5
12	Nov 12, 14	<i>Holiday – Veterans Day No Class</i>	9.6, Review <i>Nov 16 Last day to drop with a W</i>
13	Nov 19, 21	Test #4 on Ch 8&9 10.1 – 10.3	10.4, 10.8, 11.1
14	Nov 26, 28	11.2 – 11.4	11.5, Review
15	Dec 3, 5	Test #5 on Ch 10&11	Review for Final
16	Dec 10	FINAL EXAM 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	<i>Have a nice holiday!</i>