Math 125	Intermediate Algebra
Spring 2013	Instructor: Carole Akl

Section: 0372	Lecture Time: MWF 10:40 AM-12:15 PM
	Location: CMS 020
Office Hours:	M 12:30-1:30 PM, TTh 1:30-3:00 PM, W 12:30-2:00 PM, F 10-10:30 AM
Office Location:	CMS 124, Office #139
Telephone:	(818) 364-7873
E-mail:	aklce@lamission.edu
Class Website:	http://lamc.mylabsplus.com

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 in fall 2012, you may have bought this book and used MyLabsPlus 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 MyLabsPlus 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 MyLabsPlus, and this will give you access to the e-book.

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: 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, May 29th from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. 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.

Online Assignments: Students enrolled in Math 125 are automatically registered in an online system called MyLabsPlus. Homework and practice exams will be assigned online through this system. The access code for MyLabsPlus is packaged with the new textbook sold in the Mission College bookstore. Textbooks purchased online or at other bookstores may not include the access code for MyLabsPlus. The access code may be purchased on its own through lamc.mylabsplus.com site. Assistance in registering/purchasing the access code will be available the first day of class.

Students should work on their homework as each section is completed in class. There are due dates posted online for each HW and it is the students' responsibility to turn in the assignments by the due date. **No extensions will be granted**. All scores will be automatically transferred to the instructor after a student hits the submit button. Since the system does not grade each step of students' work, it is important that students write down their solving steps clearly on a HW notebook in order to identify the mistakes made. Instructor may require students to turn in this HW notebook as part of the HW points. Points may be deducted if work was not shown in a clear and organized manner and labeled neatly indicating the section being worked on, and the problem number.

In Class work/Quizzes: Class work will be given regularly in the form of group work or individual work. Active learning is very effective especially in a Math class. Quizzes will also be given to get you ready for upcoming exams. These will be announced and usually include 3 to 5 questions.

Grading: Final grades will be based on:
- Final exam – 28%
- Best 4 out of 5 exams (The lowest test score of the 5 will be dropped) – 52%
- Online Assignments – 10%
- Classwork/Quizzes – 10%

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

A: 90-100%	B: 80-89%	C: 70-79%	D: 60-69%	F: 59% 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 Math Center located in CMS 121. The hours of the Center are: M-Th 11am-8pm, and Sat from 10am-2pm.

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) on or before May 5th, 2013, <u>you must drop the class yourself – officially</u> – in person through the Admissions Office or through the internet. 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 spring 2013 the deadline to avoid a "W" is **Monday, February 18th**.

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 on page 50. 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 Spring 2013:

Last day to add classes:	Friday, February 15
Last day to drop without a "W":	Monday, February 18
Last day to petition for credit/no credit:	Friday, March 8
Last day to drop with a "W":	Sunday, May 5
Final Exam:	Wednesday, May 29 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/

- **Math 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/

Success and Study Tips:

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 quiz is given, you lose the points for that quiz. 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 and quizzes, 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 remote memory**. Understanding greatly enhances your ability to comprehend later material. Memory is unreliable, and temporary. Understanding is intense, never lost…and exciting!

Math 125 Spring 2013 Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	Feb 04-Feb 08	Intro + Ch 3 Review	Ch 3 Review + 3.7 (Synthetic Division)	Ch 4 Review
2	Feb 11-Feb 15	Ch 4 Review + Factoring binomials with cubes	5.1, 5.2	***President's Day (no class)***
3	Feb 18-Feb 22	***President's Day (no class)***	**Ch 3 & 4 Test**	5.3, 5.4
4	Feb 25-Mar 01	5.5, 5.6	5.7 + Ch 6 Review	Ch 6 Review
5	Mar 04-Mar 08	6.6 (Functions)	**Ch 5 & 6 Test**	Ch 7 Review
6	Mar 11-Mar 15	7.4 (Systems of Linear Equations in 3 variables)	Appendix D (Matrices) + Ch 8 Review	Ch 8 Review
7	Mar 18-Mar 22	8.2 (Rational Exponents)	8.7 (Complex Numbers)	**Ch 7 & 8 Test**
8	Mar 25-Mar 29	9.1, 9.2	9.3, 9.4	***Spring Break (no class)***
9	Apr 01-Apr 05	***Spring Break (no class)***	***Spring Break (no class)***	***Spring Break (no class)***
10	Apr 08-Apr 12	9.5, 9.6	10.1, 10.2	10.2, 10.3
11	Apr 15-Apr 19	10.3, 10.4	11.1	11.2
12	Apr 22-Apr 26	11.3	11.4	**Ch 9, 10 & 11 Test**
13	Apr 29-May 03	12.1, 12.2	12.3	12.4
14	May 06-May 10	12.5, 12.6	12.7	12.8
15	May 13-May 17	13.1, 13.2	13.3	13.4
16	May 20-May 24	**Ch 12 & 13 Test**	Final Review	Final Review
17	May 27-May 31	***Memorial Day (no class)***	**Final Exam (10:00 AM to 12:00 PM)**	Class is over ☺