

# Syllabus

Math 115

Elementary Algebra

Fall 2017

## Instructor Information

Name: Emil Sargsyan

Office hour: M: 8:30-9:10AM, 3-5PM,  
T: 12:10-12:30PM, W: 8:30-9:10AM,  
TH: 3:10-5:10PM

Location: CMS 136

Email: sargsye2@lamission.edu

## Course Information

Section number: 22687

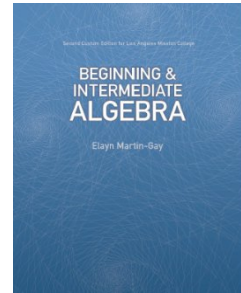
Lecture time: 9:20AM-11:50AM

Location: CMS 127

MML Course ID: sargsyan65779

## Text Book

Beginning and Intermediate Algebra, by Elayn Martin-Gay, Custom Edition for Los Angeles Mission College. The textbook is highly recommended. If you have taken 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. However, since you are going to use the textbook also for Math 125, I strongly recommend to purchase the textbook bundled with access code from the bookstore.



**Prerequisites:** Math 112 with a grade of "C" or better, or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the Math assessment process, or by permit.

**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.

Grading		
Final Exam	28%	The final is a common final made by the math department and has two parts. A multiple choice part and a free response part.
Tests	50%	Best 3 out of 4 exams (The lowest test score of the 4 will be dropped, unless you were assigned a zero due to academic dishonesty)
Online quizzes	7%	On MyMathLab
Classwork	5%	
Online Homework	10%	On MyMathLab

**Final:** This course has a common departmental final. The final is cumulative and has a free response portion and a multiple choice portion. The multiple choice portion will be administered online using MyMathLab. The free response portion will be written and you must show work to earn credit. You are required to take the final exam to pass the class. No make-up finals will be allowed. The final will be on Monday, December 11 at 10:00AM.

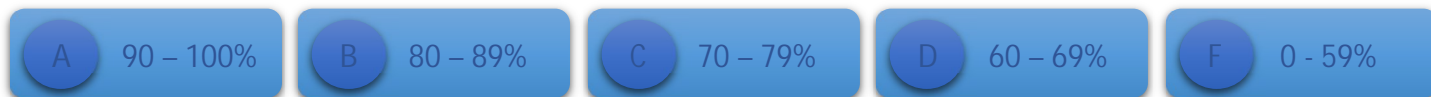
**Exams:** There will be four exams. They are all written and in free response format. They cover about two chapters worth of material each. You have to show all your work on exams to earn full credit. Students are not allowed to use notes during exams. The tentative testing schedule is given in the 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 [sargsyan65779](#). 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 quizzes 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 20% 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.

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



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

## Tutoring

Free tutoring and other academic resources such as math textbooks, calculators, and computers with internet access are available at the STEM/Math Center Location:

CMS 121 Center Hours: Monday - Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Phone: (818) 374-7811

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (LRC) Location: Ground floor of the MathLab Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Library building Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone: (818) 364-7754

**Description:** This is the first course in Algebra. There will be a brief review of concepts learned in pre-algebra using more challenging illustrations and examples. Topics include the real number system, integer exponents, polynomials and factoring, rational expressions, radicals, solving different types of equations (linear, quadratic, rational and radical), linear equations and inequalities in two variables, systems of linear equations in two variables, and problem solving involving the different types of equations.

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

1. Simplify and evaluate various algebraic expressions.
2. Solve, graph, and analyze various algebraic equations and systems of equations, including utilizing them to solve application problems.

**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. The procedures for dropping classes are detailed on page 58 of the 2016-2017 Los Angeles Mission College Catalog.

**Withdrawals:** If you stop attending the class (or wish to drop a class), YOU MUST DROP THE CLASS YOURSELF – OFFICIALLY – on or before November 19, 2017 (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 2017 the deadline to avoid a “W” is Sunday, September 10.

**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 2016-2017 Los Angeles Mission College Catalog on pages 35 and 36. 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. So please prioritize and set yourself realistic expectations. Do not take on more than you can handle. Please stop by my office any time throughout the semester and let me know how I can help you. Keep in mind that 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 reflection 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 2017:**

Last day to add classes:	Sunday September 10
Last day to drop without a “W” (Online Only):	Sunday September 10
Last day to drop with a “W” (Online Only):	Sunday November 19
Math 115 Final Exam:	Monday, December 11

## Accommodations for DSPS students:

LAMC students with verified disabilities who are requesting academic accommodations should use the following procedure:

Step 1: Obtain documentation of your disability from a licensed professional. You may contact DSPS to request a Disability Verification Form.

Step 2: Make an appointment to meet with a DSPS Specialist to review your documentation and discuss reasonable accommodations. To schedule a meeting, please call DSPS at (818)364-7732.

Step 3: Bring your disability documentation to your DSPS appointment. The DSPS office is located in room 1018 of the Instructional Building.

Step 4: Each semester, reach written accommodation agreement with the DSPS Specialist and your instructor.

To be most effective, students should complete this process by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the semester. Tests with required accommodations must be taken at the DSPS office.

### Resources:

- Management of Stress and Mental Health:  
If you, or someone you know is in distress due the pressure of succeeding in school and contending with work, financial issues, relationships, managing time effectively, getting enough sleep, etc., please visit the Student Health Center (SHC), which offers a broad range of confidential student services including counseling and mental health services. The SHC is located in the Campus Services Building Building. The SHC webpage is [lamission.edu/healthcenter](http://lamission.edu/healthcenter) and the phone number is 818-362-6182. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number is 800-273-8255.
- 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/>
- 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 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 rote memory.** Understanding greatly enhances your ability to comprehend later material. Memory is unreliable, and temporary. Understanding is intense, never lost...and exciting!

### Math 115 Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Monday	Wednesday
1	Aug 28 / Aug 30	Intro + Chapter 1 Review	2.1 to 2.3
2	Sep 04 / Sep 06	Labor Day Holiday	2.4, 2.5
3	Sept 11 / Sept 13	2.6, 2.8	Rev. Ch 1 & 2
4	Sept 18 / Sept 20	Ch 1 & 2 Test, 3.1	3.2 to 3.4
5	Sept 25 / Sep 27	3.5 to 3.6	3.7, 4.1
6	Oct 02 / Oct 04	4.2 to 4.3	4.4 to 4.5
7	Oct 09 / Oct 11	4.6 to 4.7	Rev. Ch 3 & 4
8	Oct 16 / Oct 18	Ch 3 & 4 Test, 6.1	6.2, 6.3
9	Oct 23 / Oct 25	6.4, 6.5	6.6, 6.7
10	Oct 30 / Nov 01	7.1, 7.2	7.3, 7.4
11	Nov 06 / Nov 08	7.5	Rev. Ch 6 & 7
12	Nov 13 / Nov 15	Ch 6 & 7 Test, 8.1	8.2 to 8.3
13	Nov 20 / Nov 22	8.4 to 8.5	8.6 to 8.7
14	Nov 27 / Nov 29	Rev. Ch 8	Ch 8 Test
15	Dec 04 / Dec 06	Final Review	Final Review
16	Dec 11 / Dec 13	Final Exam 8:00-10:00 PM	