

MATH 115 Elementary Algebra
Fall 2012 Section: 3224 Time: MW 7:00–9:30pm Location: CMS 027

Instructor: Hamid Jafari , PhD

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Text: *Beginning and Intermediate Algebra*, by Elayn Martin-Gay, Custom Edition for Los Angeles Mission College. The textbook is highly recommended as you will be using it for a whole year (Math 115 and Math 125). You will only find this book at the bookstore since it's a new custom edition. It comes bundled with an access code we will use to access online assignments, including practice and sample final.

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

Important Dates:

Last day to add classes:	Friday, September 7
Last day to drop without a "W":	Friday, September 7 (in person) or Sunday, September 9 (online)
Last day to drop with a "W":	Friday, November 16 (in person) or Sunday, November 18 (online)

Final Exam: Monday, December 10, 8:00– 10:00pm

Course 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:

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.

Course Organization: The course will follow the attached course schedule as closely as possible.

Resources:

- 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 Tutoring Lab located in CMS 121. The hours of the Math Center are: MTh 11am-8pm. For more information, check the Math Center website at <http://lamission.edu/mathcenter/>.
- Online resources such as: video clips for selected word problems, common final practice set, and common final sample problems can be accessed at <http://lamission.edu/math/m115.aspx>
- STEM resources including academic counseling and advisement are available through Los Angeles Mission College STEM program. For more information, check the STEM website at: <http://lamission.edu/stem>.

Calculators: Only stand alone scientific calculators are allowed during the exams Graphing calculators, cell phones, smart phones, laptops, ipads, tablets, etc. are not allowed during exams.

Online Homework & Quizzes:

- Students enrolled in Math 115 are automatically registered in an online system called MyLabsPlus. Homework and quizzes will be assigned online through this system. The access code for MyLabsPlus will be packaged with the new textbook sold in the Mission College bookstore. The same textbook and software will be used for the Math 125 continuation course in the spring semester. Textbooks purchased online or at other bookstores may not include the access code for MyLabsPlus. 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.

Classwork/Quizzes: Classwork 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.

Exams: There will be five exams. They are all free response, and you have to show all your work to earn full credit. They cover about two chapters 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.

Final: This class has a common departmental final. It is cumulative, and has a free answer portion and a multiple choice portion. You are required to take the final exam to pass the class. The final will be on Monday, December 10, 8:00-10:00pm.

Grading:

Online Homework & Quizzes	10 %
Classwork/Quizzes	8 %
Exams (Best 4 out of 5)	52 %
Final Exam	30 %

Grading scale: Letter grades will be determined by your overall percentage in the course:

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.

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. Absolutely no food is allowed in classroom.

Withdrawals: If you stop attending the class (or wish to drop a class) on or before November 18th, 2012, you must drop the class yourself – officially – in person through the Admissions Office or through the internet. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "F" in the class. Please take note of important dates noted below and in the tentative schedule on the last page of the syllabus.

Title V and Education Code Changes on Class repetition:

Students are limited to three attempts at passing a course with a "C" or better. Any letter grade or "W" counts as an attempt. This rule is retroactive. It means, for example, that if a student got a "W" and a "D" in Math 115 two years ago, he/she has one more chance to pass before he/she is prevented from enrolling in Math 115. Once again, the last day to drop without a "W" is Friday, September 7 (in person) or Sunday, September 9 (online)

DSPS:

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, you can either contact me or contact the Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS). The DSPS office is located at INST 1018 and can be reached either by phone at (818) 364-7732 or online at <http://www.lamission.edu/dsps>

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!

Tentative Schedule Math 115, (7:00-9:30)PM

Week	Date	Monday	Wednesday
1	Aug 27/ Aug 29	Intro, 1.2 to 1.5	1.6 to 1.8, 2.1 to 2.2
2	Sept 03 / Sept 05	<i>Labor Day (no class)</i>	2.3 to 2.5
3	Sept 10 / Sept 12	2.6 to 2.8	Exam 1 (Ch 1 & 2)
4	Sept 17 / Sept 19	3.1 to 3.3	3.4 to 3.6
5	Sept 24 / Sept 26	4.1 to 4.3	4.5 to 4.6
6	Oct 01 / Oct 03	4.7, Review	Exam 2 (Ch 3 & 4); 5.1
7	Oct 08 / Oct 10	5.2 to 5.3	5.4 to 5.6
8	Oct 15 / Oct 17	5.7; Review	Exam 3 (Ch 5)
9	Oct 22 / Oct 24	6.1 to 6.3	6.4 to 6.5a
10	Oct 29 / Oct 31	6.6; 7.1 to 7.2	7.3, 7.5
11	Nov 05 / Nov 07	Review	Exam 4 (Ch 6 & 7)
12	Nov 12 / Nov 14	<i>Veteran's (no class)</i>	8.1, 8.3
13	Nov 19 / Nov 21	8.4 to 8.5	8.6; 9.1 to 9.2
14	Nov 26 / Nov 28	Review	Exam 5 (Ch 8 & 9)
15	Dec 03 / Dec 05	Final Review	Final Review
16	Dec 10 / Dec 12	Final Exam (8:00-10:00pm)	No Class

[PDF to Word](#)