

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus
Beginning Algebra - Math 081

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring 2014	Instructor Name	Allyn Leon
Course Title & #	Beginning Algebra, Math 081	Email	allyn.leon@imperial.edu
CRN #	20112	Webpage	http://imperial.blackboard.com http://www.mathxl.com
Room	2723	Office	2760.2
Class Dates	01/21/2014 - 05/12/2014	Office Hours	Mon/Fri from 2:00 - 3:00 Tues/Thurs from 10:00 - 11:00
Class Days	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday	Office Phone #	760-355-6523
Class Times	10:00 am to 11:15 am	Office contact if student will be out or emergency	Ofelia Duarte (Math Department Secretary) 760-355-6155
Units	4		

Course Description

An introduction to the concepts of Algebra. Topics covered include solving equations, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, graphs and linear equations, systems of linear equations, and inequalities.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to (1) solve linear equations in one variable, (2) factor polynomial expressions using a variety of methods and solve polynomial equations, (3) graph linear equations and find values related to linear graphs, and (4) solve application problems appropriate to beginning algebra. These outcomes will be assessed through selected exercises on exams throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

Through various activities and assessments, students will:

1. Demonstrate skills in solving first degree equations.
2. Demonstrate the ability to solve many problems in diverse areas, in a step-by-step manner, when dealing with applications.
3. Develop manipulation skills when operating polynomials.
4. Demonstrate the various types of factoring and be cognizant of the factoring process.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of skills in operations with and simplifications of rational expressions.
6. Demonstrate a visual understanding of the Cartesian Coordinate System and linear graphs.
7. Demonstrate the ability to solve linear systems of equations both algebraically and graphically.
8. Demonstrate the ability to solve linear inequalities algebraically and be able to present the solutions graphically.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

1. **Textbook:** Introductory and Intermediate Algebra, 4E by Blitzer (Custom book), Pearson Publisher. You will have three options for the textbook.
 - a. **Option 1:** Purchase the textbook new (bundled with MathXL).
 - b. **Option 2:** You may purchase the book used and buy MathXL access separately.
 - c. **Option 3:** You may choose to not buy the physical textbook, and just purchase MathXL access. You will have access to the textbook pages through the homework.

Some people prefer the third option because it is potentially less expensive. However, many people do prefer having a physical copy of the book. You may choose either of the above options for this class, as long as you have some sort of access to MathXL, as this is how you will complete your homework.

2. **Calculator:** A basic calculator, like a TI-30 (costs around \$10) is recommended, or you can go with a graphing calculator, like the TI-83 or TI-84; it really depends on what other math or science classes you plan on taking later on.
3. **MathXL:** When you register in MathXL, you will be asked to enroll in a course. Use the Course ID: **XL1G-J11E-001Z-5T52** (this includes zeros, and not o's).

Important Dates

Last day to add the class: **Saturday 02/01/2014**

Last day to withdraw from the class with a "W": **Saturday 04/12/2014**

See the schedule on the last page for important quiz and test dates!

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Homework: There will be **exercises** assigned from every section that we cover. These homework exercises will need to be completed within the MathXL homework system. At the end of the semester, your homework average will be scaled to account for 200 points.

Quizzes: There will be eleven (11) short quizzes given throughout the semester, to be taken in class. Most will cover 2 sections and will have 2-5 exercises for you to complete. At the end of the semester the lowest quiz score will be dropped and the top 10 will count.

Tests: There will be four (4) tests during the semester. Tests 1, 2, & 3 will take place at the end of short clusters of topics. See the schedule below. Test 4 is the final. **There will be no make-up exams.** If you miss any exam, it will be recorded as a zero, and **the final exam percentage** will be used to replace that score at the end of the semester. If you miss the final, it will be recorded as a zero.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Your grade will be calculated based on the following items:

Homework Average (taken from MathXL)	200 points	~20%
10 Quizzes @ 20 points each (11 quizzes, drop 1)	200 points	~20%
Test 1, Test 2, & Test 3 @ 100 points each	300 points	~30%
Test 4 (Final) @ 300 points	300 points	~30%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1000 points</i>	<i>100%</i>

Your final grade will be based on the following points and percentages:

90% to 100%	900-1000 points	A
80% to 89%	800-899 points	B
70% to 79%	700-799 points	C
60% to 69%	600-699 points	D
Below 60%	Below 600 points	F

The **MathXL Gradebook** is where you want to go to check your grades and progress. You can do this at any time to get an idea of how you are doing in the class.

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- **Electronic Devices:** Please keep your cell phones on silent and/or vibrate while we're in class.
- **Food and Drink** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Water only, please.
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Academic Honesty

- **Plagiarism** is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly 'cite a source', you must ask for help.
- **Cheating** is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.
- Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service.

Additional Help

- **Blackboard** support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- **Learning Labs:** There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program
- **Library Services:** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Tips for Success

1. **Pace yourself, and keep up.** Take a look at the anticipated class schedule of topics, readings, assignments, and tests above. This is a guide to help you keep pace with course materials. Come to class, take notes, and do the homework in MathXL.
2. **Watch the videos** that are available for each section that is supposed to be covered. Within MathXL there should be various videos and animations associated with each section that we cover. Watching these should help you learn the material.
3. **Practice.** Start the homework as early as possible during the week. The due dates for the homework are flexible, but you should not wait until the day or week before a test to start; this is a recipe for disaster!
4. **Form a study group.** Having a group of people that you discuss and work out problems with is a great way to learn.
5. **Ask questions.** Part of learning anything, including math, is not understanding, and asking questions so that the material makes sense. If something in class does not make sense, ask.

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Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

Week #	Date	Readings & Assignments	Quizzes & Tests
1	01/20	Martin Luther King Jr. (Holiday)	
	01/22	Introduction	
	01/24	Review of Chapter 1 Topics (handout)	Quiz 1 (Syllabus)
2	01/27	Section 2.1	
	01/29	Section 2.2	
	01/31	Section 2.3	Quiz 2 (Sections 2.1-2.2)
3	02/03	Section 2.4	
	02/05	Section 2.5	
	02/07	Section 2.6	Quiz 3 (Sections 2.3-2.5)
4	02/10	Section 3.1	
	02/12	Section 3.2	
	02/14	Lincoln's Birthday (Holiday)	
5	02/17	President's Day (Holiday)	
	02/19	Section 3.3	
	02/21	Section 3.4	Quiz 4 (Sections 3.1-3.3)
6	02/24	Section 3.5	
	02/26	Review for Test 1	
	02/28	None	Test 1 (Chapters 1-3)
7	03/03	Section 4.1	
	03/05	Section 4.2	
	03/07	Section 4.3	Quiz 5 (Sections 4.1-4.2)
8	03/10	Section 4.4	
	03/12	Section 4.5	
	03/14	Section 5.1	Quiz 6 (Sections 4.3-4.5)
9	03/17	Section 5.2	
	03/19	Section 5.3	
	03/21	Section 5.4	Quiz 7 (Sections 5.2-5.3)
10	03/24	Section 5.5	
	03/26	Section 5.6	
	03/28	Review for Test 2	
11	03/31	None	Test 2 (Chapters 4-5)
	04/02	Section 6.1	
	04/04	Section 6.2	Quiz 8 (Section 6.1)
12	04/07	Section 6.3	
	04/09	Section 6.4	
	04/11	Section 6.5	Quiz 9 (Sections 6.2-6.4)
13	04/14	Section 6.6	
	04/16	Sections 7.1 & 7.2	
	04/18	Section 7.3	Quiz 10 (Sections 6.5-7.2)
14	04/21	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
	04/23	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
	04/25	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
15	04/28	Section 7.4	
	04/30	Section 7.5	
	05/02	Section 7.6	Quiz 11 (Sections 7.4-7.5)
16	05/05	Section 7.7	
	05/07	Review for Test 3	
	05/09	None	Test 3 (Chapters 6-7)
17	05/12	Review for Final	
	05/14	None	Test 4 (Final)