



**Imperial
Valley
College**

**Math 091: Intermediate Algebra
CRN 20128 / 5.0 units
Spring 2014 Course Syllabus**

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Lecture: Bldg 2500, (Math Lab)
Monday – Thursday
4:45 – 5:55 p.m.

TEXT: Introductory and Intermediate Algebra, 4th Edition by Robert Blitzer
ISBN: 978-0-321729385

OTHER MATERIALS: (Required)

- **A MathXL access code.** This comes as an insert when you buy a new textbook. Don't lose it! If you buy a used text, you may purchase an access code online or at the IVC bookstore. Refer to the MathXL handout that will be provided in class.
- **A scientific calculator** (No graphing calculators or cell phones on exams)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A further study of the concepts of algebra. Topics covered include linear and quadratic equations, relations, functions and graphs, systems of equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, conic sections, and sequences and series.
(Nontransferable, AA/AS degree only)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of radical expressions and equations.
2. Demonstrate an ability to solve applications, inequalities and absolute value inequalities.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of quadratic functions, including graphing and equations.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of functions and relations, including one-to-one functions.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of logarithmic and exponential functions and their graphs.
6. Classify and graph ellipses, parabolas, and hyperbolas.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of sequences and series and their operations.

COURSE CONTENT: Chapters 8 – 14 of the Blitzer text listed above. (Chapters 1 – 7 are covered in Math 81).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, a student will:

1. Solve quadratic equations by factoring, completing the square, and the quadratic formula. (ILO2)
2. Solve equations involving radicals. (ILO2)
3. Recognize and graph equations of conic sections. (ILO2)
4. Perform operations on functions algebraically. (ILO2)
5. Solve an application involving exponential functions. (ILO2, ILO5)

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EVALUATION:

In-class activities	50
MathXL Homework	100
Quizzes	50
4 exams x 150 points each	600
Final Exam (cumulative)	+ 200
	1000

GRADING SCALE

900 – 1000	A
800 – 899	B
700 – 799	C
600 – 699	D
Below 600	F

The grade that is earned, according to the point scale above, is the grade that will be received. Grades are not subjective. Grades are not negotiable. All students will be treated equally.

NOTE: The final exam in this course is **cumulative** and **mandatory** for all students. Math 91 uses a “common final”, which means it is written by a departmental committee, and the same final is given to all Math 91 students.

NOTE: Although this course includes online homework, it is not an online class. Students who treat this class as an online class (i.e., never attending lectures and showing up only on test days) will find themselves dropped for excessive absence.

ATTENDANCE is crucial to your success in this course. You are expected to attend every class and **remain during the entire class**. If you cannot commit to being in class during the regularly scheduled times (M – Th, 4:45 – 5:55 pm), then you should drop this class and take it at a different time. Once you exceed 4 absences, I may drop you from the course. **Leaving class early not only counts as an unexcused absence, but it will also cost you points each time.**

That being said, if you intend to drop the class, you should never *assume* the instructor has dropped you if you stop showing up. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have dropped through WebSTAR by the deadline (April 11, 2014) to receive a “W” instead of a failing grade.

Any in-class activities or worksheets that are missed due to an absence CANNOT be made up. Furthermore, on quizzes and exams you are responsible for all material covered in class, regardless of whether or not you were there. Therefore, if you do miss class, you should be sure to obtain any missed worksheets or other materials from the instructor, and obtain lecture notes from a classmate.

HOMEWORK should always be taken seriously in a math class. Math is a skill that you can become good at by ***practicing it***. Coming to class and taking good notes is important, but doing homework is what deepens your understanding and sharpens your skills. Homework also helps you assess your own problem areas. When you struggle with homework problems, it will help you to ask more informed questions during the following class (instead of just saying “I’m lost” or “I can’t do this”), so that I or a tutor can better help you.

Online homework with MathXL is used in this course. The textbook also offers practice problems (many of which I can suggest in class), with answers to the odd exercises provided in the back. Although only

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the online homework is graded and recorded, the text's problems offer an additional source of practice. If math is a difficult subject for you, then more practice is always better. Here are some further tips:

- 1) Form a study group and work homework problems together with classmates.
- 2) If there is a particular homework problem you would really like to see done on the board, ask me at the beginning of class. I will try to accommodate requests if there is time; if there is not sufficient class time, we can arrange to meet after or outside of class for help.
- 3) Take advantage of the free tutoring at the Math Lab and become a regular there.

A NOTE ABOUT HOMEWORK AND STUDYING:

The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour/unit 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. The Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) has adopted a similar requirement. **This means that for a 5-unit course, students are expected to spend at least 10 hours per week spending out-of-class time on homework or studying.**

EXAMS closely reflect the material covered in class and on the homework. A tentative exam schedule is provided in this syllabus; however, exam dates (with the exception of the final exam) may be subject to change, in accordance with the pace of the class. If an exam date is changed, you will be notified sufficiently in advance, both in class and on the Blackboard announcements page.

MAKE-UPS: There are no make-up exams. Do not miss a scheduled exam. There are also no “dropped” exam scores; however, **your lowest exam score will be replaced by your overall homework score.** For example, if you have a 90% homework total at the end of the semester, then your lowest exam score would be replaced with a 90% score (90% of 150 = 135 points).

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

- **School is place to act with respect.** Remember that different students have different paces and styles of learning, and that all students have the right to ask questions in class. As a student, you have the right to a safe and comfortable learning environment. You do not have the right to impinge on other students' learning. Talking or other disruptive classroom behavior **WILL** affect your grade. If the disruptive behavior continues, you will be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs for further action.

CLASS WORK POINTS:

- You don't receive points just for attending class, nor do you lose points for missing class. However, several in-class activities will be worth class work points which you can only receive if you are in class that day, for a total of 50 possible points. Any activities you miss by being absent **CANNOT** be “made up”.

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• While the majority of your overall grade comes from exam scores, your class work points do make up 5% of your grade (one full letter grade). Unlike exam points and homework points, **class work points can be both earned and lost**, according to the rules outlined here.

• **How to lose class work points:**

- **Talking** or being otherwise **disruptive** during class (-5 points)
- **Leaving class early** (-10 points)
- **Cell phone** ringing, or leaving class to answer your cell phone, or texting in class... (-5 points)

A FEW MORE WORDS ABOUT CELL PHONES...

- Turn OFF all cell phones and electronic devices before class, and especially during exams.
- Cell phones that are on “vibrate” mode are STILL DISRUPTIVE.
- Leaving the room to answer cell phones that are in “silent” mode is disruptive and unacceptable. Take care of private calls/texting on your own time.
- The use of text messaging or other electronic devices for cheating on tests will be treated with the same seriousness as any other form of cheating (see ACADEMIC INTEGRITY below).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Cheating and plagiarism (using as one’s own ideas writings, materials, or images of someone else without acknowledgment or permission) can result in any one of a variety of sanctions. Cheating on an exam will result in a grade of “0” for that exam, plus a referral to the Campus Disciplinary Officer for possible further action. Multiple offenses can result in suspension or expulsion from the class. Please refer to the Standards of Student Conduct on p. 41 of the 2012 – 2013 General Catalog.

DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (DSPS): Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor and the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S is located in the 2100 building. (760) 355 – 6313; TDD: 355 – 4174

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/>

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SEMESTER OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE: (*With the exception of the Final Exam, these dates are tentative and subject to change with advance notice!)

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Weekly Goals
1	1/20 HOLIDAY NO CLASS	1/21 FIRST DAY OF CLASS	1/22	1/23	Welcome, introduction 8.1 – 8.4
2	1/27	1/28	1/29	1/30	8.4 – 9.3
3	2/3	2/4	2/5	2/6 EXAM 1	9.3 – 9.4; review, exam
4	2/10	2/11	2/12	2/13	10.1 – 10.3
5	2/17 HOLIDAY NO CLASS	2/18	2/19	2/20	10.3 – 10.6
6	2/24	2/25	2/26	2/27 EXAM 2	10.6 – 10.7; review, exam
7	3/3	3/4	3/5	3/6	11.1 – 11.2, 11.4
8	3/10	3/11	3/12	3/13	11.4, 11.3
9	3/17	3/18	3/19	3/20	11.3, 11.5
10	3/24	3/25 EXAM 3	3/26	3/27	Review, exam; 12.1, 12.2
11	3/31	4/1	4/2	4/3	12.3 – 12.5
12	4/7	4/8	4/9	4/10	12.5; 13.1 – 13.2
13	4/14	4/15	4/16	4/17	13.3 – 13.5
14	4/21 SPRING BREAK! 😊	4/22 SPRING BREAK! 😊	4/23 SPRING BREAK! 😊	4/24 SPRING BREAK! 😊	Better do at least <u>some</u> studying during this time!
15	4/28	4/29	4/30	5/1 EXAM 4	13.5; review, exam
16	5/5	5/6	5/7	5/8	14.1 – 14.3
17	5/12	5/13	5/14	5/15 FINAL EXAM	Review, Final Exam

*Quiz dates are not listed in this calendar; they will be announced a minimum of 2-3 days in advance.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES:

February 1	Last day to withdraw without owing fees and/or be eligible for a refund Last day to add a class
February 2	Last day to withdraw without course appearing on transcripts (no “W”; no refund)
April 11	Last day to withdraw and receive a “W”
May 15	Final Exam

TUTORING RESOURCES:

Math Lab

Building 2500

Mon. – Thurs.: 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(760) 355 – 6160 (Caroline Bennett)

(760) 355 – 6187 (Rosalio Marin)

Study Skills Center

Located in the Library

Mon. – Thurs.: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

(760) 355 – 6384 (Josue Verduzco)

“Never regard your study as a duty, but as the enviable opportunity to learn to know the liberating influence of beauty in the realm of the spirit for your own personal joy and to the profit of the community to which your later work belongs.” -- Albert Einstein