



Imperial
Valley
College

Math 091: Intermediate Algebra
CRN 10642 / 5.0 units
Fall 2013 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Caroline Bennett

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: caroline.bennett@imperial.edu

Lecture: Bldg 2500, (Math Lab)

Monday – Thursday

4:45 – 5:55 p.m.

Text: Introductory and Intermediate Algebra, 4th Edition by Robert Blitzer

Other materials: **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. Refer to the MathXL handout that will be provided in class.

You may use a **scientific calculator**. (No graphing calculators or cell phones on exams)

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>COURSE CONTENT:</u> | Basics of functions | Exponential and logarithmic functions |
| | Inequalities and problem solving | Conic sections |
| | Radicals and rational exponents | Systems of nonlinear equations |
| | Quadratic functions and equations | Sequences and series |

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)

EVALUATION:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| In-class activities & quizzes | 50 |
| MathXL Homework | 150 |
| 4 exams x 150 points each | 600 |
| Final Exam (cumulative) | <u>+ 200</u> |
| | 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.

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 3 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 (November 9, 2013) 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 here. 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 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 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 more 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 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.

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.**

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.

PARTICIPATION POINTS:

- You don't receive points for attending class or lose points for missing class. However, several in-class activities and quizzes will be worth participation 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".

- While the majority of your overall grade comes from exam scores, your participation points do make up 10% of your grade (one full letter grade). Unlike exam points and homework points, **participation points can be both earned and lost**, according to the rules outlined here.

- **How to lose participation 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 Dean of Student Affairs 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.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodation 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

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 | 8/19 | 8/20 | 8/21 | 8/22 | 8.1 – 8.4 |
| 2 | 8/26 | 8/27 | 8/28 | 8/29 | 8.4 – 9.3 |
| 3 | 9/2 HOLIDAY NO CLASS | 9/3 | 9/3 | 9/5 EXAM 1 | 9.3 – 9.4; review, exam |
| 4 | 9/9 | 9/10 | 9/11 | 9/12 | 10.1 – 10.3 |
| 5 | 9/16 | 9/17 | 9/18 | 9/19 | 10.3 – 10.6 |
| 6 | 9/23 | 9/24 | 9/25 | 9/26 EXAM 2 | 10.6 – 10.7; review, exam |
| 7 | 9/30 | 10/1 | 10/2 | 10/3 | 11.1 – 11.2, 11.4 |
| 8 | 10/7 | 10/8 | 10/9 | 10/10 | 11.4, 11.3 |
| 9 | 10/14 | 10/15 | 10/16 | 10/17 | 11.3, 11.5 |
| 10 | 10/21 | 10/22 EXAM 3 | 10/23 | 10/24 | Review, exam; 12.1, 12.2 |
| 11 | 10/28 | 10/29 | 10/30 | 10/31 | 12.3 – 12.5 |
| 12 | 11/4 | 11/5 | 11/6 | 11/7 | 12.5; 13.1 – 13.2 |
| 13 | 11/11 HOLIDAY NO CLASS | 11/12 | 11/13 | 11/14 | 13.3 – 13.5 |
| 14 | 11/18 | 11/19 | 11/20 | 11/21 EXAM 4 | 13.5; review, exam |
| 15 | 11/25 | 11/26 | 11/27 | 11/28 HOLIDAY NO CLASS | 14.1 – 14.3 |
| 16 | 12/2 | 12/3 | 12/4 | 12/5 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:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| August 31 | Last day to withdraw without owing fees and/or be eligible for a refund Last day to add a class |
| September 2 | Last day to withdraw without course appearing on transcripts (no “W”; no refund) |
| November 9 | Last day to withdraw and receive a “W” |
| December 5 | Final Exam |

CAMPUS 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

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

“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