

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 2026	Instructor Name:	Caroline Bennett
Course Title & #:	Math 150: College Algebra	Email:	caroline.bennett@imperial.edu
CRN #:	15283	Webpage (optional):	N /A
Classroom:	Building 2700, Room 2725	Office #:	Building 2700, Room 2765
Class Dates:	1/05/26 – 2/04/26	Office Hours:	[No regular office hours during winter/summer sessions]
Class Days:	Monday – Friday	Office Phone #:	(760) 355 – 6124
Class Times:	12:30 pm – 4:25 pm	Emergency Contact:	(760) 355 – 6155
Units:	4.0	Class Format:	Face-to-Face (on campus)

Course Description

College level course in algebra: polynomial, rational, radical, absolute value, exponential and logarithmic functions; systems of equations, theory of polynomial equations, matrix algebra, linear programming, and analytic geometry. (CSU, UC credit limited. See a counselor.)

Course Prerequisite

Appropriate placement as defined by AB1705 or successful completion of Intermediate Algebra.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

MYMATHLAB Access Code (REQUIRED): This comes as an insert if you buy a new text packaged with a code. Otherwise, you may purchase an access code online or at the IVC Bookstore. **A handout with instructions on how to register with MyMathLab is provided on Canvas.** **Course ID: bennett24229**

CALCULATOR (REQUIRED): A **scientific calculator** is required. Graphing calculators may be used on homework and on in-class activities. Students may NOT share calculators during exams. **Graphing calculators and cell phones are NOT permitted during exams.**

TEXT (RECOMMENDED): Since MyMathLab includes full access to the e-book, buying a physical textbook is **not required**. However, if you wish to purchase a physical book, it is:

Blitzer, R. . 2022. *College Algebra*. 8th ed. Pearson. ISBN: 9780136970613

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

EVALUATION:

*Student Behavior & Responsibility	30
MyMathLab Homework	120
3 Exams × 200 points each	600
Final Exam (cumulative)	<u>+ 250</u>
	1000

GRADING SCALE

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

The Student Behavior & Responsibility category is the only category in which students may LOSE points as well as earn them. Points are earned through the collection of small in-class activities; points may also be **deducted as a result of disruptive classroom behavior (e.g., talking or leaving mid-class without prior notice and approval), or demonstrating lack of engagement by spending class time looking at phones, wearing ear buds, etc.*

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 assessed by the same standards.

NOTE: In cases of “**borderline grades**” (e.g., 69%), it is at the instructor’s discretion as to whether to “round up” to the next letter grade. Factors such as attendance and classroom behavior may be considered. Students who are disruptive during class (e.g. talking, leaving mid-class), or are seen looking at their phones or wearing ear buds, will NOT have their final grades rounded up in such cases.

NOTE: MyMathLab will automatically display a current “percentage” based upon the online work that you have completed (homework only); however, this percentage generally does not reflect your accurate overall course grade (as it does not include exam scores).

At the end of the semester, students’ MyMathLab data will be exported by the instructor to a separate spreadsheet, and grades will be calculated according to the category weights outlined above. You may contact the instructor at any point throughout the semester if you wish to see your current overall grade approximation.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

Demonstrate problem solving strategies by identifying an appropriate method to solve a given problem, correctly set up the problem, perform the appropriate analysis and computation, and share their interpretation of the conclusion or the outcome, using correct grammar or in an oral presentation. This outcome will be assessed through selected exercises on exams throughout the semester. (ILO1, ILO2)

Course Objectives

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

1. Analyze and investigate properties of functions.
2. Synthesize results from the graph and/or equations of functions.
3. Apply transformations to the graphs of functions.
4. Recognize the relationship between functions and their inverses graphically and algebraically.
5. Solve an apply rational, linear, polynomial, radical, absolute value, exponential, and logarithmic equations and solve linear, non-linear, and absolute value and equality.
6. Solve systems of equations and inequalities.
7. Apply techniques for finding zeros of polynomials and roots of equations.
8. Apply functions and other algebraic techniques to model real world B-STEM applications.
9. Analyze conics algebraically and graphically and use formulas to find sums of finite and infinite series.
10. Perform operations on matrices and solve linear systems of equations using matrix algebra.
11. Use Linear Programming in common business and science applications.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

LECTURE AND INSTRUCTION

Our class will meet Monday – Friday in person on campus (room 2725) from 12:30 pm – 4:25 pm. Classroom time will consist of a combination of instructor lecture and student activity time, which will include opportunities to ask questions and receive help from both the embedded tutor and the instructor.

Exams take place in person during class time. Students may be permitted to work together during in-class activities, but exams must be completed individually. Although homework is online, **exams must be taken in person.**

CATEGORIES OF ASSIGNMENTS

MYMATHLAB HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (Online)

These are the official homework assignments that make up the “Homework” portion of the overall course grade (see point scale on page 2). These assignments provide very **essential practice to help students prepare for quizzes and exams**.

Homeworks are generally delineated by chapter/section, and each assignment is typically open for 2 – 5 days. After each assignment’s deadline passes, its link will remain open, and students will be able to continue working on it for 50% credit on any problems completed past the deadline (problems completed before the deadline still retain their 100% credit).

In the homework assignments, you have unlimited tries on each problem. Therefore, if you are willing to devote the necessary time and patience, then you can achieve a score of 100% on every homework assignment (provided you start it soon enough and allow enough time).

Students can receive assistance from me on specific homework problems during designated class time, or from our embedded tutor during their review session times, or from any other math tutor provided by the IVC Learning Support Services Center or other tutoring resources. **The sooner you get started on each assignment, the more time you will have to ask questions and get help on specific problem areas.**

A NOTE ABOUT DEADLINES: Homework deadlines are strict. Please understand that I cannot extend homework deadlines for individual students because of a missed due date. In the interest of equity and fairness, students must be assessed with the exact same assignments, deadlines, and standards.

It is every student’s responsibility to log in regularly and stay on top of all due dates. For the online homeworks, after an assignment’s due date passes, you may still work on it for 50% credit (you keep 100% credit for all work done before each due date).

EXAMS: (In class)

There will be 3 regular exams at 200 points each. Exams are closed-book and closed-note. Some exams will allow scientific calculators, while others might not (this will always be announced in advance). However, for all exams, NO graphing calculators and absolutely NO cell phones or other electronic devices may be used. Students seen touching or looking at a cell phone during an exam will receive an automatic “0” for that exam. Students may NOT leave the room during an exam.

MAKE-UP EXAMS

All exam dates are listed in the Course Calendar; please plan accordingly. If you know ahead of time that you absolutely cannot make an exam date due to an out-of-town trip or important engagement, it is possible to arrange with me to take an exam 1 – 3 days ahead of time. However, it is not possible to take an exam after the rest of the class has taken it. In such cases, it will be necessary to take the universal Make-Up Exam.

Each student will have the chance to make up ONE missed exam on the designated Make-Up Exam day (see Course Calendar). The Make-Up Exam can replace only one missing exam score. The Make-Up Exam is “universal”, meaning that all students who take it will be taking the same exam (regardless of whether they are replacing Exam 1, 2, or 3). The Make-Up Exam will contain selected material from each of Exams 1 – 3. As with the other exams, a review guide will be provided several days prior to the Make-Up Exam.

If you do NOT miss any exams, then you may choose to take the Make-Up Exam if you wish, and replace your lowest exam score (if your Make-Up Exam score is higher than your lowest exam score). Or, you may opt to ignore the Make-Up Exam altogether with no negative consequences to your grade. [If you decide to attempt the Make-Up Exam and score lower than all of your first 3 exams, then the Make-Up Exam score simply wouldn't count; however, you will have gained some valuable review and practice for the Final Exam.]

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

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.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. **A student with excessive unexcused absences may be dropped by the instructor.** [Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.] Math 150 is a 4-unit course; therefore, any student with 4 or more unexcused absences should meet with the instructor to discuss their further enrollment in the course.

NOTE: With the above information notwithstanding, students should never ASSUME that they have been dropped from a class if attendance has stopped. As per the Course Catalog: **"Be aware, it is always the student's responsibility to withdraw officially from classes. In no case should students presume they have been dropped by the instructor."** Please see the Course Catalog for further details.

NOTE: Attendance is taken during class; however, students do not receive points for attendance. It is done for data purposes (census, financial aid, etc.).

Other Course Information

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. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has adopted a similar requirement. Since Math 150 is a 4-unit class, **during a 16-week spring/fall semester you would plan to spend a minimum of 8 hours per week** working on homework, studying, working with a tutor, etc., outside of class time, in order to achieve success.

Because this is an accelerated 5-week session, we must move at a little more than 3 times the pace of a regular semester in order to cover the same material. This means that you should plan to devote **$3 \times 8 = 24$ hours per week studying outside of class**. This amounts to **roughly 3 – 4 hours studying outside of class every weekday, in addition to study time over the weekends**. If you cannot commit to this, then it is recommended that you wait and take this course during a regular fall or spring 16-week semester.

This course will move rapidly. We must cover a lot of material each week. It is critical that you stay caught up, avoid falling behind, stay organized, and get additional tutoring help whenever necessary. If you plan to stay in the class, it is a serious commitment.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence - AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting 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 "cite a source" correctly, 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 that 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 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.

- The consequences of academic dishonesty are severe and may include the possibility of expulsion. For further information, refer to the Standards of Student Conduct in the 2025-2026 General Catalog.

HOW DO I SHOW ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY IN ONLINE WORK?

- **KEEP YOUR PASSWORDS CONFIDENTIAL.**
 - You have a unique password to access online software like Canvas. Never allow someone else to log-in to your account.
- **COMPLETE YOUR OWN COURSEWORK.**
 - When you register for an online class and log-in to Canvas, you do so with the understanding that you will produce your own work, take your own exams, and will do so without the assistance of others (unless directed by the instructor).

Examples of Academic Dishonesty that can occur in an online environment:

- Copying from others on a quiz, test, examination, or assignment;
- Allowing someone else to copy your answers on a quiz, test, exam, or assignment;
- Having someone else take an exam or quiz for you;
- Conferring with others during a test or quiz (if the instructor didn't explicitly say it was a group project, then he/she expects you to do the work without conferring with others);
- Buying or using a term paper or research paper from an internet source or other company or taking any work of another, even with permission, and presenting the work as your own;
- Excessive revising or editing by others that substantially alters your final work;
- Sharing information that allows other students an advantage on an exam (such as telling a peer what to expect on a make-up exam or prepping a student for a test in another section of the same class);
- Taking and using the words, work, or ideas of others and presenting any of these as your own work is plagiarism. This applies to all work generated by another, whether it be oral, written, or artistic work. Plagiarism may either be deliberate or unintentional.

NOTE: Although this is a face-to-face class, many of these above principles regarding academic honesty in online classes still do apply to our MyMathLab homework assignments. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK IS PRACTICE, just as an athlete must exercise and practice. When you use ChatGPT or other AI tools, or apps such as PhotoMath or SymboLab to complete your homework assignments, you are not getting the practice that you need in order to perform those same skills on exams. You therefore will not likely be able to pass those exams, and therefore you will not likely pass the course. In other words, USING TECHNOLOGY TO CHEAT ON HOMEWORK IS A WASTE OF YOUR TIME.

IVC Student Resources

CANVAS LMS: Canvas is Imperial Valley College's Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: [Canvas Student Login](#). The [Canvas Student Guides Site](#) provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas. Services include, but are not limited to:

- Tutoring Labs
- Career Services Center
- Child Development Center
- Student Counseling and Health Services
- Military and Veteran Success Center
- Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)
- Disabled Student Programs and Services
- Student Equity & Achievement Program*
- Library Services and Information Literacy

***What if I cannot afford food, books, or need other help?**

The Student Equity & Achievement Program has many resources that are available to you. Please tell us what you need by submitting your request(s) here:

https://imperial.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/2322/Portal/Requests/TicketRequests/NewForm?ID=xY%7eBoc4D8vY_&RequestorType=Service

Anticipated Course Calendar

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1/5 Syllabus; Readiness Quiz; 1.1 – 1.2	1/6 1.2 – 1.4	1/7 1.4, 1.5	1/8 1.6, 1.7	1/9 2.1 – 2.2
1/12 2.3 – 2.5	1/13 2.6 – 2.7 EXAM 1	1/14 2.7, 3.1	1/15 3.2 – 3.3	1/16 3.4 – 3.5
1/19 HOLIDAY NO CLASS	1/20 4.1 – 4.2	1/21 4.3 – 4.4	1/22 4.5 EXAM 2	1/23 4.4 – 4.5
1/26 4.5; 5.1	1/27 5.1 – 5.2	1/28 5.3 – 5.4	1/29 5.5 – 5.6	1/30 6.1 – 6.3 EXAM 3
2/2 6.4 – 6.5 MAKE-UP EXAM	2/3 7.1 – 7.3	2/4 FINAL EXAM MML CLOSING AT 12 PM	2/5	2/6

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES:

January 7	Last day to add class
January 11	Last day to withdraw without owing fees and/or be eligible for refund
January 19	Holiday (Martin Luther King Day)
January 27	Last day to withdraw and receive a “W”
February 4	Final Exam (comprehensive)

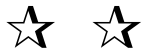
SHOULD YOU TAKE MATH 150 AS A SHORT-TERM ACCELERATED COURSE?

DO NOT TAKE MATH 150 AS A SHORT-TERM ACCELERATED CLASS IF:

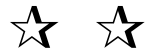
- You are deficient in basic math, pre-algebra and beginning algebra skills (i.e., you scored 70% or less on the Readiness Quiz)
- You have never taken beginning algebra before (or haven’t taken beginning algebra in a long time)
- You are unable to stay focused on math for 3 – 4 hour blocks of time
- You have difficulty with fast-paced math courses
- You are taking multiple courses over the winter session
- You have a work schedule that doesn’t allow for full attendance and sufficient study time

DO TAKE MATH 150 AS A SHORT-TERM ACCELERATED CLASS IF:

- You have a strong sense of self-discipline and work ethic
- You have the mental stamina to do math for 3+ hours at a time
- You have a solid foundation in basic math, pre-algebra, and beginning algebra skills, and can review pre-requisite skills quickly if necessary



GET TUTORING HELP WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS



1

Our class's own **embedded tutor**, _____, will be holding free tutoring sessions for several hours each week (solely for students in our Math 150 class).

[Days/times will appear here as information becomes available]

You may attend these sessions in person at the IVC Library (no appointments required). If you cannot attend in person, you may also use the following Zoom link:

<https://www.imperial.edu/student-support/study-skills-center/>

[Follow the link to the virtual front desk, then ask for our class's tutor]

2

The Learning Services Department is offering math tutoring both in person at the IVC Library and online through Zoom:

<https://www.imperial.edu/students/learning-services/study-skills-center/>

Or, simply click on **"IVC Tutoring"** from the menu on the left of our Math 150 Canvas page to their online tutoring. For both in-person and online tutoring, appointments are not necessary for "drop-in" sessions.

3

Instructor office hours:

Regular office hours are not scheduled during winter and summer sessions. However, portions of class time will be reserved every day for students to be able to ask questions and receive individual assistance from the instructor. This will include, but will not be limited to, the last hour or so of class time each day.

**Lots of help is available for you, but you must be willing to take advantage of it in order to benefit from it!
Your success depends on you!**

"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

