

Los Angeles Valley College
Math 113

*"Algebra is the intellectual instrument which has been created for
rendering clear the quantitative aspects of the world."*

-- Alfred North Whitehead

1. Class Information

Semester: Spring 2008

Section #: 1384*

Class Time: MTWTh 8:00-9:30

Classroom: MS 107

Website: <http://lavcmath.com/shin>

Textbook: Introductory Algebra, 10th Edition, Marvin Bittinger

Instructor: Prof. Luz V. Shin

Office: MS 104F

Phone #: 818-947-2393

Office Hours: TTh 12:30-3:00 pm

Email: shinlv@lavc.edu

*** This a short-term class (8 weeks from Feb. 4 to April 3, 2008)**

2. Course Information

Title: Elementary Algebra A

Description: This is the first half of Math 115, 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, solving linear and quadratic equations, linear equations and inequalities in two variables, and problem solving involving linear and quadratic equations.

Prerequisites: There is no prerequisite but a recommendation of a grade of C or better in Math 112; or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the math placement process.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the students will:

- Evaluate, simplify and perform the fundamental operations on algebraic expressions.
- Factor polynomial expressions.
- Solve linear equations.
- Solve quadratic equations by factoring.
- Set up and solve various types of word problems.
- Graph linear equations in two variables.

Course Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course:

- Students will be able to think analytically at a level appropriate to elementary algebra.
- Students will be able to think and read critically to solve elementary algebra level mathematical problems.

3. Course Requirements

School Supplies: The student is expected to bring the following to each class session:

- Textbook
- Notebook (3-ring binder or file folder) for notes and homework
- Pens, pencils and erasers
- 5 Testing booklets (bluebooks) for exams

Homework and Group Work: Refer to the assignment sheet provided for the session. Homework is assigned daily and questions discussed the next meeting. There is an option to do the homework online using MyMathLab (handout will be provided). Homework Quizzes (for those who prefer paper assignments) and Group Work will be given on a regular basis for a total of 100 points. Mathematics is not a spectator sport, so you have to do the work!

Exams: There will be five Exams including the finals; each will be given a maximum of 100 points. Each exam is free response and covers one chapter, except the final exam which is cumulative. Students are not allowed to use notes and calculators during exams. The tentative testing schedule is given in the timeline.

4. Class Policy

Attendance: REGULAR ATTENDANCE is very much encouraged! School policy on attendance is enforced. The instructor may exclude students who have excessive absences. There will be sign-in sheets that will be passed around each meeting. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that he/she signs in for his/her attendance.

Withdrawals: If you stop attending the class (or wish to drop a class), **you must drop the class yourself – officially** – by phone, Internet or through the Office of Admissions and Records. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "F" in the class. Please take note of important dates noted in the timeline.

DSPS Students: To make arrangements for special accommodations that have been recommended by DSPS for students with disabilities, please contact the instructor.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Please turn off all pagers and phones before coming to class. Class time is for learning mathematics, 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.

Student Conduct: Students are expected to adhere to all district policies as described in the LAVC Spring 2008 Schedule of Classes including attendance and withdrawal from classes (p. 127), and Standards of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Action (p. 137-139).

5. Grading System

Evaluation: The total points earned will be computed out of a grand total of 600 points. No make-up exam will be given at any circumstance! If you miss an exam, a grade will be assigned from your final exam performance on the missed exam's coverage.

Grading Curve:

➤	A	90 – 100	540 – 600 points
➤	B	80 – 89	480 – 539 points
➤	C	70 – 79	420 – 479 points
➤	D	55 – 69	330 – 419 points
➤	F	below 55	below 330 points

6. Tips for Success in this class

- Choose to attend all class periods on time and don't leave early. If you are absent on a day that homework quizzes or group work is given, you lose the points for that class work.
- Pay attention in class, participate in class discussions, and ask questions. The instructor regularly gives away tips for exams and quizzes, so make sure you take note of them.
- Do or attempt all homework not for the sake of just doing it, but trying to understand the concepts, learning them in the process. "Practice makes perfect" applies not only to music and sports, but also in mathematics. Be sure to schedule sufficient time to complete your assigned tasks before the next class period.
- Know how to get help if you need it.
 - Attend scheduled review sessions.
 - Consult instructor during posted office hours.
 - Drop by the Math Lab (MS 106) for tutoring services.
- Organize your class materials, including homework assignments, graded quizzes and tests, notes and worked out review problems. These items will make valuable references when studying for upcoming tests and the final exam.

"The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics. That tenet is the foundation of the do-it-yourself, Socratic, or Texas method, ..."

-- Paul Halmos