

**Los Angeles Valley College**  
**Math 115**

*"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 2009

**Section #:** 1396

**Class Time:** MTWTh 11:20-12:30 pm

**Classroom:** MS 107

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

**Textbook:** Beginning Algebra, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, K. Elayn Martin-Gay

**Instructor:** Prof. Luz V. Shin

**Office:** MS 104F

**Phone #:** 818-947-2393

**Drop-in Hours:** TTh 12:30-3:00

**Email:** shinlv@lavc.edu

**2. Course Information**

**Title:** Elementary Algebra

**Description:** This is 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, rational expressions, radicals, solving different types of equations (linear, quadratic, rational and those involving radicals), linear equations and inequalities in two variables, systems of linear equations in two variables, and problem solving involving the different types of equations.

**Prerequisites:** A grade of C or better in Math 112; or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the math placement process.

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

- Evaluate, simplify and perform the fundamental operations on algebraic expressions.
- Solve linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, and index two radical equations.
- Factor polynomial expressions.
- Sketch graphs of linear equations and inequalities in two variables.
- Set up and solve various types of word problems.
- Solve a system of two 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
- Six Testing booklets (bluebooks/greenbooks) on exam days

**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 is due on the day it was assigned. No late homework will be accepted at any circumstance. Group Work will be given on a regular basis. Homework and Group work will combine for a total of 100 points. Mathematics is not a spectator sport, so you have to do the work!

**Long Exams:** There will be five Long Exams; each will be out of 100 points. Each exam is free response and covers one or two chapters. Students are not allowed to use notes and calculators during exams. The tentative testing schedule is given in the timeline.

**Final Exam:** Finals is a two-hour comprehensive free response exam and is out of 100 points.

**Study Skills Tasks:** There will be opportunities for extra credit by doing study skills tasks that will be assigned from time to time. For example, the instructor intends to meet with every student at least once during the semester to discuss each other's goals and expectations.

### 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 2009 Schedule of Classes including attendance (p. 137) and withdrawal from classes (p. 143), and Standards of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Action (p. 138).

## 5. Grading System

**Evaluation:** The total points earned will be computed out of a grand total of 700 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.

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|---------------------------|------------|
| ➤ Homework and Group Work | 100 points |
| ➤ Long Exams              | 500 points |
| ➤ Final Exam              | 100 points |

### **Grading Curve:**

- |     |          |                  |
|-----|----------|------------------|
| ➤ A | 90 – 100 | 630 – 700 points |
| ➤ B | 80 – 89  | 560 – 629 points |
| ➤ C | 70 – 79  | 490 – 559 points |
| ➤ D | 55 – 69  | 385 – 489 points |
| ➤ F | below 55 | below 385 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 is due 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 drop-in 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**