

Los Angeles Valley College
Math 120

*“Learning Geometry requires time, vocabulary development,
attention to detail and order, supporting claims, and a lot of thinking.”*

1. Class Information

Semester: Spring 2009

Section #: 1402

Class Time: MTWTh 9:40-10:50

Classroom: MS 107

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

Textbook: Elementary Geometry for College Students, 4th Edition, Alexander and Koeberlein

Instructor: Prof. Luz V. Shin

Office: MS 104F

Phone #: 818-947-2393

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

Email: shinlv@lavc.edu

2. Course Information

Title: Plane Geometry

Description: This course will prepare you for college-level mathematics such as Mathematics for Teachers and Trigonometry. Topics include geometric figures such as points, lines, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, and regular polygons. Postulates and theorems involving these geometric concepts will be discussed and explored. Additionally, there will be geometric constructions that will help reinforce these concepts. There will be emphasis in logical reasoning and methods of proof, especially deductive reasoning. Right Triangle Trigonometry will be introduced to aid in the discussion of perimeters and areas of polygons.

Prerequisites: A grade of C or better in both Math 113 and Math 114; or a grade of C or better in Math 115; or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the math placement process.

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

- State definitions, postulates and theorems.
- Reason mathematically using deductive and inductive reasoning.
- Write proofs using deductive reasoning.
- Classify geometric shapes and identify figures with shared characteristics.
- Solve quantitative problems applying established definitions, postulates and theorems.
- Construct geometric figures using straightedge and compass.

Course Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course:

- Students will be able to think logically.
- Students will be able to think analytically using geometric concepts.

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
- Construction tools such as straight edge, compass and protractor
- Six Testing booklets (greenbooks/bluebooks) on exam days

Homework and Group Work: Refer to the assignment sheet provided for the semester. Homework is assigned daily and questions discussed the next meeting. Homework quizzes and group work will be given on a regular basis. Mathematics is not a spectator sport, so you have to do the work!

Construction Folder: Construction Folder will be collected twice during the semester. Each folder will be given a maximum of 50 points.

DPT Quizzes: DPT Quizzes (Definition, Postulates, Theorems) will be given regularly. The best of the DPT Quizzes, HW Quizzes and Group Work will be combined for a total of 100 points.

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. It may consist of ASN (always, sometimes, never) questions, statements of definitions, postulates or theorems, computations, proofs and constructions. Students are not allowed to use notes during exams, but calculators are permitted. The tentative testing schedule is given in the timeline.

Final Exam: Finals is a two-hour comprehensive exam and is out of 100 points. It consists of ASN (always, sometimes, never) questions, computations, proofs and constructions. Statement of theorems may be provided.

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 geometry, 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), withdrawal from classes (p. 143), and Academic Standards and Grading Policies (p. 138).

5. Grading System

Evaluation: The total points earned will be computed out of a grand total of 800 points. No make-up exam will be given at any circumstance! If you miss an exam, a grade will be assigned to the missed score from your final exam result on that exam's coverage.

- DPT Quizzes, HW Quizzes and GW 100 points
- Construction Folders 100 points
- Long Exams 500 points
- Final Exam 100 points

Grading Curve:

- A 90 – 100 720 – 800 points
- B 80 – 89 640 – 719 points
- C 70 – 79 560 – 639 points
- D 55 – 69 440 – 559 points
- F below 55 below 440 points

6. Tips for Success in this class

- Choose to attend all class periods on time and don't leave early.
- 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.

"Mathematics is a more powerful instrument of knowledge than any other that has been bequeathed to us by human agency." -- Descartes