

**Los Angeles Valley College**  
**Math 125**

*“... algebra is the intellectual instrument which has been created  
for rendering clear the quantitative aspects of the world.”  
The Organisation of Thought*

**1. Class Information**

**Semester:** Fall 2008

**Section #:** 1663

**Class Time:** MTWTh 9:40-10:50

**Classroom:** MS 109

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

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

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

**Office:** MS 104F

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

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

**Email:** shinlv@lavc.edu

**2. Course Information**

**Title:** Intermediate Algebra

**Description:** This course will prepare you for the next college-level mathematics such as Statistics, College Algebra, Mathematics for Teachers and Trigonometry. There will be a brief review of concepts learned in elementary algebra using more challenging illustrations and examples. New topics include rational exponents, nonlinear and absolute value inequalities, functions and graphs, introduction to conic sections, solving systems of two or three variables using matrix methods, second-degree systems, sequences and series, introduction to exponential and logarithmic functions, and the Binomial Theorem.

**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:

- Develop mastery in solving linear, quadratic, rational and absolute value equations and inequalities.
- Develop mastery in factoring polynomials.
- Develop mastery in simplifying algebraic expressions, which may involve rational and radical expressions.
- Develop the skills of sketching graphs of functions and conic sections (parabolas, ellipses, circles and hyperbolas) given their equations.
- Develop mastery in applying problem solving techniques in finding solutions to word problems.
- Develop the ability to solve systems of linear equations in two or three variables using the methods of substitution, elimination, or matrix methods.
- Develop an understanding of the concepts of sequences, series and the Binomial Theorem.

**Course Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, the students will:

- Think analytically at a level appropriate to Intermediate Algebra.
- Think and read critically to solve Intermediate 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) for exams

**Homework:** Refer to the assignment sheet provided for the semester. Homework is assigned daily and questions discussed the next meeting. There will be an option to do the homework online. Instructions will be provided in class. Homework quizzes and group work will be given from time to time. Mathematics is not a spectator sport, so you have to do the work!

**Long Exams:** There will be five Long Exams; each will be given a maximum of 100 points. Each exam is free response and covers one or two chapters. 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 free response exam and is given a maximum of 100 points.

### 4. Class Policy

**Attendance:** REGULAR ATTENDANCE is very much encouraged! School policy on attendance is enforced. 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 Fall 2008 Schedule of Classes including attendance (p. 135) and withdrawal from classes (p.141), and Academic Standards and Grading Policies (p. 136).

## 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!

- HW Quizzes 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.
- 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.

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

*-- Descartes*