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: Spring 2010
Section #: 1410
Class Time: MTWTh 9:40-10:50
Classroom: MS 105
Website: http://lavcmath.com/shin
Instructor: Prof. Luz V. Shin
Office: MS 104F
Phone #: 818-947-2393
Student Drop-in Hours: MTWTh 12:30-2 pm
Email: shinlv@lavc.edu
Textbook: Intermediate Algebra, 5th Edition, K. Elayn Martin-Gay

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:

- Apply Elementary Algebra concepts and techniques to more complicated problems.
- Solve a system of three linear equations in three variables using various methods.
- Solve polynomial, rational, radical, and absolute value equations and inequalities.
- Express solution sets graphically and using interval notation.
- Identify, analyze, and graph equations of lines, circles, parabolas, ellipses, hyperbolas, exponentials and logarithms.
- Identify relations and functions, find the domain and range, sketch graphs, and find inverses.
- Solve exponential and logarithmic equations and applications.

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/greenbooks) for exams

Homework and Group Work: Refer to the assignment sheet provided for the semester. 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 next class meeting after the day it was assigned. Due dates will be posted on the board daily, so watch out for it. 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 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 out of 100 points.

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 Text Messaging: Please turn off or silent (not vibrate) all phones before coming to class. No text messaging, no MP3's, no ipods, and no hand-held video games while class is in session. Class time is for learning mathematics, not for personal communication or entertainment.

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 2009 Schedule of Classes including attendance (p. 133) and withdrawal from classes (p.139), and Standards of Student Conduct (p. 143-145).

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.

- 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.
- 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.
  - Seek class tutor's (TIPster) assistance/guidance in class and during TIP (Tutoring Infusion Program) sessions.
  - Attend scheduled review sessions (workshops).
  - Consult instructor during posted student 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