

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

MATH 90 ONLINE, SPRING 2016
SECTIONS 56317 & 56319 (4 UNITS)

INSTRUCTOR



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Websites www.stevetoner.com, www.MathVideos.Net
Office Hours Mondays & Wednesdays: 2:40 - 4:15 PM;
 Tuesdays & Thursdays: 7:20 - 7:50 AM

COURSE

DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to serve as preparation for the study of College Algebra, Statistics, Trigonometry and other college mathematics courses. Topics include a review of the real number system, an introduction to imaginary and complex numbers, the solution of first degree, quadratic and systems of equations, polynomials, rational expressions, exponents and radicals, graphs of functions (both linear and nonlinear) and of relations, and exponential and logarithmic functions.

PREREQUISITES

Math 42 or Math 50 (or BOTH Math 50A and Math 50B) with a grade of 'C' or better. If you have not met these prerequisites, you will likely be administratively dropped within the first week of class.

TEXTBOOK / MATERIALS



INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA, 3RD EDITION, BY MILLER/O'NEILL/HYDE.

Online access is required and includes complete digital access to your e-books, videos and homework. Your course Code is **PPNR6-KY6WD**. You may begin the registration process at Connect Math beginning February 15th, but the class will not officially begin until Tuesday, February 16th.

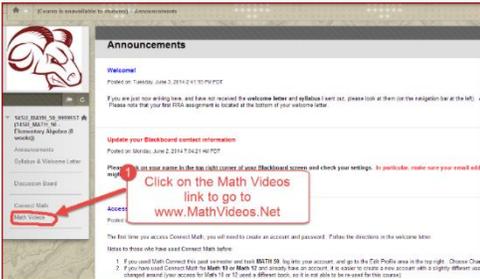
The 2-week financial aid code for this course is **A4A23-849B7-92991-D5840** (That's a zero, not the letter O, at the end). Note that it **does not** give add an additional two weeks to your course. You will need to extend your account **BEFORE** the end of the two weeks. (See the last page of the syllabus for further instructions.)

Please refer to the welcome letter for detailed step-by-step directions on accessing and paying for the online access. If you have used Connect Math in the past, log into your account and go to the Edit Profile area in the top right. Choose Change Course Code and enter the course code **PPNR6-KY6WD**. You will still need to purchase access for Math 90.

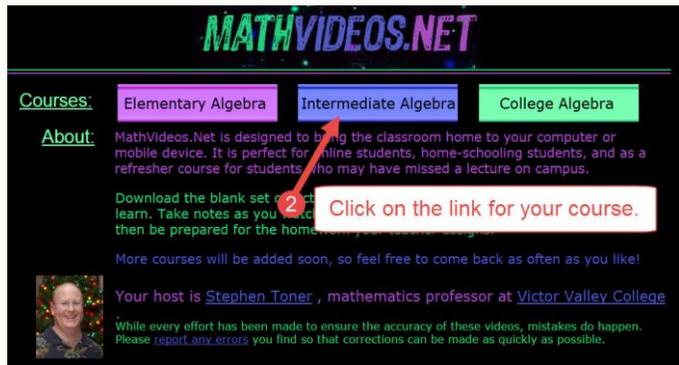
LECTURE NOTES AND VIDEOS

Practice is a vital component in learning mathematics. I have prepared lecture videos for you to teach you all the material. This is your primary source of learning (see directions below). There are also author-produced videos and animations that can be found at the Connect Math website in the Resources area. You will save valuable time by watching my lecture videos for each section prior to starting the homework assignments.

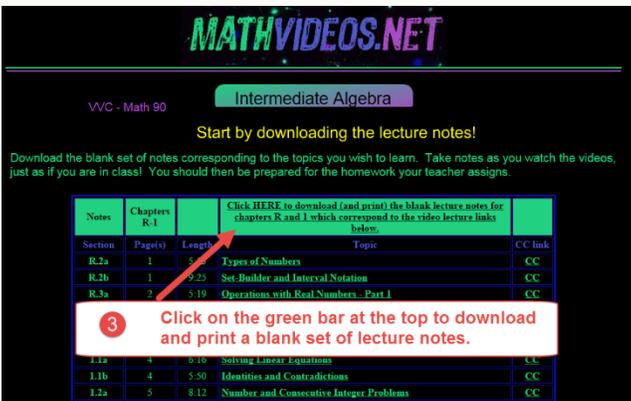
First, you will want to go to www.mathvideos.net, my video website, and click on the Intermediate Algebra button. Above each pair of chapters, there is a link to "download blank lecture notes". Please download and print these out. For each lecture in the table, there is a video lecture I have created to teach you the material. **Watch the videos and take lecture notes just as if you were in class. This is an essential part of the class.**



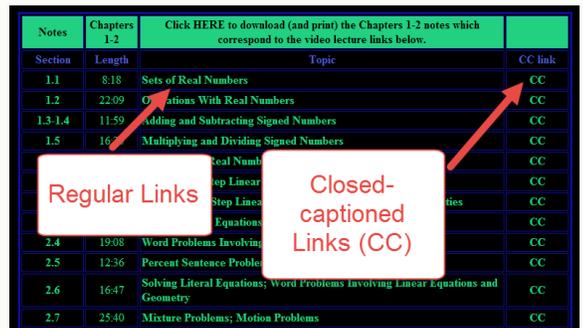
Within Blackboard, click on the Math Videos link in the Navigation panel.



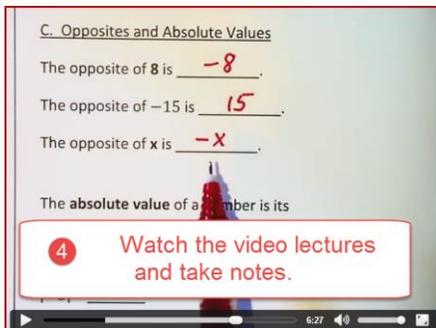
Enter your class at www.MathVideos.Net.



Download a blank set of lecture notes for the current chapters.



Click on the title of each video to watch each video normally. Click on the closed-caption links to watch them closed-captioned (might not work with Internet Explorer).



Watch the videos and take notes, just as in class, except that you now can hit pause and rewind!

HOMEWORK

There are two types of homework assignments. The first type, which I call “**Video Homework**”, has you complete an assignment very similar to the problems I work for you in the video lectures, pretty much in the same order in which they are presented in the video. These are meant to build your confidence. Then, twice per chapter, there are “**REVIEW Homework**” assignments, which are essentially a mid-chapter review. In this second type of homework set, the problems are in a scrambled order so that you can’t rely primarily on a video lecture to help get you through.

I have done my best to shorten the assignments as much as possible for this class. If you need extra practice, you can click on the Resources button in Connect Math and then click on the Practice tab to get some “canned” assignments from the author. For material that is review in nature, the assignments are shorter. As the material is newer, especially later in the course, the assignments contain more problems to work through.

You may take each homework assignment as many times as you wish, and I will only count the highest grade for each assignment. I will **drop** the lowest score from both your Video homework assignments and Review homework assignments at the end of the term before calculating your final grade.

CHAPTER TESTS

We will have 8 tests and one proctored final exam. For each test, you will only be allowed ONE attempt, either 120 minutes or 150 minutes, based on the difficulty of the material. I will drop your lowest-scoring chapter exam at the end of the term. No calculators, notes or “cheat sheets” may be used on any of the chapter tests.

Sometimes you make minor errors on an exam and the computer marks the problem as incorrect. If you have made obvious mistakes (such as typing in the wrong variable, or mistakenly typing in a comma), you may request partial credit back on those problems. After the deadline for any chapter exam, you will be able to view your exam in the grade book. Send me an email prior to the next test’s deadline with a list of the problems you wish me to check along with a short explanation. I will then look at the problem and determine whether additional credit is warranted.

DISCUSSION BOARD & RESPONSE REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS (RRA’S)

You are expected to participate in each of the weekly discussion boards which will be located at the Blackboard site for the class. Each week you should post in the discussion board forum as directed. Each of your posts should **contribute** to the conversation and not just be a short “LOL” type of post. Most of the boards (other than the social forum) will be set up so that you cannot view your classmates’ posts until you have posted yourself. Please **read the prompts carefully**; some weeks you will need to respond to one of your classmates’ posts in addition to your own post.

There will be four short RRA’s (Response Required Assignment) this term. These will be administrative in nature.

GRADING

It is your responsibility to be aware of your grade. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Online Chapter Tests	25% of your grade
Video Homework	10% of your grade
Review Homework	15% of your grade
Discussion Board and RRA’s	10% of your grade
Comprehensive Final Exam (see page 6)	40% of your grade

A	88.00% - 100%
B	78.00% - 87.99%
C	70.00% - 77.99%
D	65.00% - 69.99%
F	0% - 64.99%



PHILOSOPHY

While taking an online class is convenient for your schedule, the same dedication is necessary as for an on-site class. If this class were on-site, you would be spending about 5 hours per week in class and travel to class, plus another 6-8 hours per week doing homework. That same 11-13 hours per week needs to be spent online to be successful. **Basically, this means you should schedule a minimum of 2 hours per day, 6 days a week.** Anything short of this is undermining your chances of success. **This course is going to teach you to organize your time, by necessity. If you tend to procrastinate, you will find that you will not likely meet all the deadlines.** Past online students suggest that you organize your time very carefully for this class.

CALCULATORS

Calculators are not allowed at any time in chapters 1 through 8, unless prompted online through Connect. Most of the homework problems have been chosen such that a calculator really should not be needed at all. In Chapter 9, however, a non-graphing calculator will be necessary. While I cannot monitor what you are doing at home, you are on your academic honor not to be using one. If it is discovered that you are using one, it will be considered academic dishonesty and you will be turned in to the Office of Student Services for academic dishonesty.

POLICIES



SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

While students may work together on the researching of any assignment, it is expected that each of their writing assignments reflect substantial individual effort. Any student who commits plagiarism or is found to have cheated on a scheduled exam is subject to a zero score for that specific exam which may result in a term grade of "F" for this course. Students should be aware that cases of cheating and/or plagiarism will be forwarded to the appropriate college administrator promptly. The college administration has a range of sanctions that may be imposed including, but not limited to, academic suspension or expulsion from the college.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT YOU ARE ALONE WHEN TAKING ANY CHAPTER EXAMS. YOU MAY NOT SEEK ANYONE'S ASSISTANCE DURING THESE EXAMS. THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANYONE LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER HELPING, PROMPTING, OR CORRECTING YOU. IT IS ALSO ASSUMED THAT YOU ARE TAKING ALL EXAMS WITHOUT THE AID OF A CALCULATOR.

ATTENDANCE

If this were an on-campus class, you would be required to attend class every day. After 4 hours of absence, you could be dropped from this class. As an online class, the same rules need to hold. **If you do not log in to Connect for 7 straight days, you will be considered to be excessively absent and may be dropped. It is your responsibility to keep your enrollment status current. You risk an "F" if you stop attending without officially withdrawing.**

Class attendance is not a measure of performance or proficiency. Whether a student is just physically present in the class is not a valid basis for grading. Reference Title 5 Section 55002 of the California Code of Regulations: (A) Grading Policy. The course provides for measurement of student performance in terms of stated course objectives and culminates in a formal, permanently recorded grade based upon uniform standards in accordance with section 55758 of this Division. The grade is based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter and the ability to demonstrate that proficiency, at least in part, by means of written expression that may include essays, or, in courses where the curriculum committee deems them to be appropriate, by problem solving exercises or skills demonstrations by students.

STUDENT ACCESS

Students with special needs are encouraged to meet with instructors to discuss the opportunity for academic accommodation and be referred to disabled student program and services per Administrative Procedure (AP 3440).

If you have a learning disability or physical need that requires special accommodation, please advise me prior to 02-22-16 (the start of the second week of class).

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

You are strongly encouraged to get tutoring or go to the Math Success Center, study in groups, and see me for help outside of class. All of these are free! Students that get help outside of class are typically much more successful than those that do not.

Regular Math Success Center hours are (tentatively):

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

The Math Lab is located in building 42 (the Academic Commons), although it may be relocating during the winter term.



IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT TECHNOLOGY



This is an online course, requiring reliable computer access. Please ensure your computer is in good repair at the start of the semester. It is suggested that before any major assignments, the computer be re-booted to clear any memory caches which may cause issues while testing. While documented outages may occur, it is the student's responsibility to meet all deadlines in this course.

At the start of the semester, please go to www.connectmath.com/downloads and install the latest versions of many key plug-ins and movie players. If you ever find your computer running slow or strange things are happening, close your browser (all tabs). This will solve many of the issues that students typically face. Sometimes it turns out you have an extra window open that you are not aware of which causes the problems.

It is highly recommended that you re-start your browser before taking any exams in order to clear your computer's cache. If you start to experience strange things, like only portions of problems showing on your screen, re-start your browser.

Part of taking an online class is having a computer that is in working order with a decent internet connection. While outages do occur, you can minimize any effects on your progress by always completing assignments ahead of their due dates.

A common complaint is "The computer marked me incorrect, but I got it right." If this is the case, I suggest you do the following: Submit the assignment (you can always go back in), and then go into the grade book and compare your answer with what the computer lists. You can often find the error, or learn from your mistake that way.

VVC CALENDAR



Feb 16	First Day of classes
Feb 28	Last day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
March 25	Campus closed - Good Friday
April 2	Last day to drop and receive a "W" grade
April 10-17	Spring Break
May 30	Campus closed - Memorial Day
June 11	Last day of spring term

OUR CLASS SCHEDULE

Since this is a short-term class, take advantage of the early access to get ahead of the deadlines. **Deadlines are FIRM.** It is suggested that you print this page and post it next to your computer for reference.

Week	Dates	Section	Deadline
1	2.16 - 2.20	Start Chapters R & 1	<i>Even though Chapters R & 1 is not due until the end of the second week, that is because some of your classmates will arrive late to the class. I highly suggest you aim to finish this chapter early and get a head start on the next chapter. Always work ahead, if possible.</i>
2	2.21 - 2.27	Finish Chapters R & 1	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. R & 1 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Feb 28th
3	2.28 - 3.05	Start Chapters 2 & 3	
4	3.06 - 3.12	Finish Chapters 2 & 3	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 2 & 3 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 13th
5	3.13- 3.19	Start Chapter 4	
6	3.20 - 3.26	Finish Chapter 4	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 4 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 27 th
7	3.27 - 4.02	Start Chapter 5	*April 2 nd , 2016 is the last day to drop the course and still receive a "W" grade.
8	4.03 - 4.09	Finish Chapter 5	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 5 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, April 17 th
	4.10 - 4.16	SPRING BREAK !!	
9	4.17 - 4.23	Start Ch. 6	
10	4.24 - 4.30	Finish Ch. 6	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 6 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, May 1 st
11	5.01 - 5.07	Start Ch. 7	
12	5.08 - 5.14	Finish Ch. 7	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 7 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, May 15 th
13	5.15 - 5.21	Start Chapter 8	
14	5.22 - 5.28	Finish Chapter 8	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 7 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, May 29 th
15	5.29 - 6.04	Start Chapter 9	
16	6.05 - 6.10	Finish Chapter 9	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 9a must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Thursday , June 9 th
	June 7-10		FINAL EXAM on-campus (see dates and times below)

FINAL EXAM

A comprehensive final exam will be given from June 6th-10th at the following times. Locations will be announced later.

- Monday, June 6th - 7:00-8:50 **pm**
- Tuesday, June 7th - 10:00 -11:50 am
- Wednesday, June 8th - 7:00-8:50 **pm**
- Thursday, June 9th - 8:00 -9:50 am
- Thursday, June 9th - 10:00 -11:50 am
- Friday, June 10th - 8:00 -9:50 am

Since there will be some in the class who will not stay in the class the full term, sign-up times for final exams will begin near the end of May, when we have determined how many students are still in the class and will be taking the final exam. An email will be sent to all remaining students at that time to start scheduling specific times for taking the final exam.

Students living *outside the area (Inland Empire)* may set up to have an alternate Final Exam administered by a proctor, approved ahead of time. If this may apply to you, you **MUST** notify Professor Toner *by the end of the second week of class, Feb 22nd, 2016*. Specific arrangements will be made with those students after April 2nd (the "W" drop deadline).

EMAIL

I do my best to answer all emails as quickly as I can, but sometimes it can be difficult.

You would not believe how many unidentified emails I receive on a regular basis... as a result, I have established this policy to help me provide you with the quickest, most reliable response.

Send all emails to Stephen.Toner@vc.edu.

★ ★ Prof. Toner's Email Policy ★ ★

Please read carefully the set of rules applicable to all emails you may send me.

The subject line (title) of the email must include the following information:

- 1 your first and last name
- 2 your class name, meeting days and times
- 3 the reason for emailing.



Examples:

- Jessica Jones, Math 90 MW 8 AM, out sick today ✓
- Jessica Jones, Math 42 online, about my chapter 3 test ✓

Do not email asking questions that can be answered by reading the syllabus. For example, please do NOT email me questions such as, "Can I take the test at a later date?" or "When is the final exam?"

Write emails using proper grammar, punctuation and capitalization. In other words, do not text me. Emails that don't follow these guidelines may not be answered.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course the student can:

1. Find the domain of polynomial, radical, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions.
2. Express sets and inequalities using set notation and interval notation.
3. Choose an appropriate method (graphing, substitution, elimination, row reduction of matrices, or Cramer's Rule) to solve a system of equations or an application involving a system of equations and determine whether the solution is reasonable.
4. Translate application problems into algebraic expressions.