

Greetings, everyone!

We officially begin our Math 42 Online class on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, but I will be opening the course up on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for those of you who wish to get an early start! I hope you have set aside an appropriate amount of time for this class, as you will certainly be busy!

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 during this semester, 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 would amount to about 11-13 hours per week to be successful. Even though this class is online, you should still put in the same amount of time. **Basically, this means you should schedule an average of 2 hours per day, 6 days a week.** Anything short of that is undermining your classroom experience and chances of success. (I understand there will be some days where you spend 5-6 hours per day, while others you only work for about an hour.)

Do not plan on spending just 15-30 minutes per day in this class; there is **no way** you will be successful. Every time I take a survey of my students and asked them for advice that they would give to future students, they overwhelmingly suggested you "stay on top of your assignments". They also suggested you "take notes from the video lectures" and "keep working [on things] until you get it".

OK, have I scared you? That is not my intent. I just want to give you all a dose of reality right up front.

Enough chatter. Here are some things you need to know:

We will use Blackboard this semester, so you will need to log in there as your starting point. PLEASE make sure that your correct email address is in your Blackboard profile, as I will usually be sending out emails and announcements through the Blackboard system. Blackboard will be your starting point for the course. This is where announcements will be posted and where the discussion boards are located. There will also be links to two other sites, one to MathVideos.Net, where I have your lecture videos posted, and the other to ConnectMath.com, where you will do your homework and take exams.

If you want to get started a little early in our class, I will be opening up Blackboard and Connect Math on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

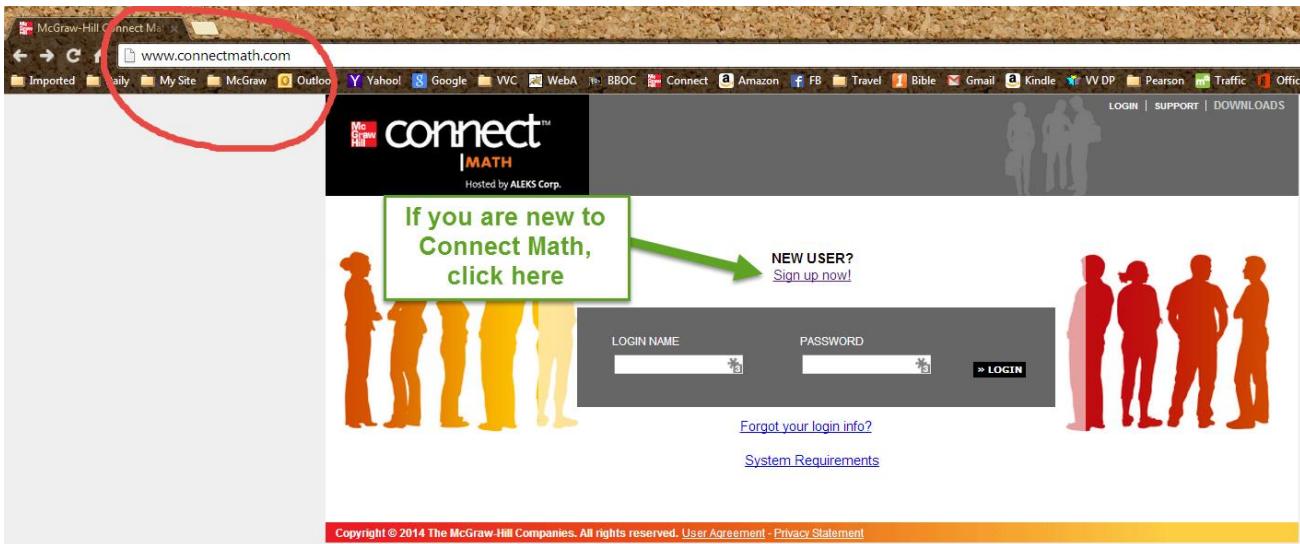
You will need to purchase access to Connect Math. I know that everyone likes an inexpensive used book, but they do not include the access to the online content which is mandatory for the course. There are basically two options:

1. Purchase access directly from [www.connectmath.com](http://www.connectmath.com) for \$95. This will include your ebook.
2. Purchase an online access code through the Rams Bookstore on campus for \$126.75, plus tax. This is the same as option 1, but available through the

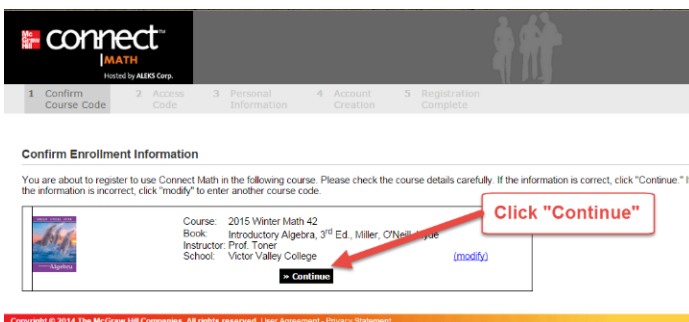
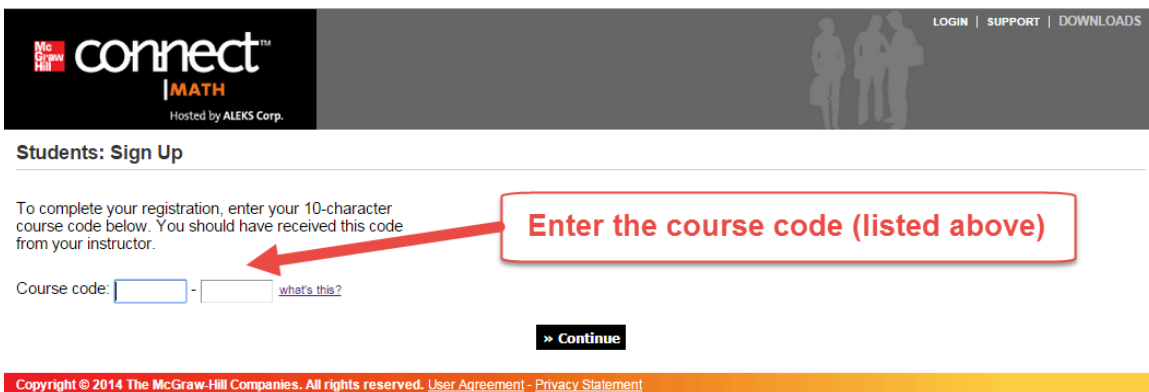
bookstore. You can also includes a paper version of the text in addition to your online access and ebook from the bookstore for \$146.60.

If you go online to try to find a cheaper deal on a text, it is unlikely to include the access code for Connect Math, and you would still need to purchase it, so please just bite the bullet and purchase the access to begin with.

To register for Connect Math, you will need to follow these steps (AFTER February 13<sup>th</sup>).



On the next screen, you will need to enter our course code: **NUHY3-D9J3Y**. This will get you to our class.



**On the next screen, verify you have this course, and then click "continue".**

On the next screen, you will have three options:

1. If you have the \$95 now, click on "purchase an online code online" for the least expensive option.

2. If you have purchased the access code at the bookstore, enter it into the boxes to gain your access.

3. If you will have one of the above in the next couple of weeks, but not right now, then...

**There is a two-week free access code to get into Connect Math.** It is **1024B-3EB35-8F60F-E19A5** (Those are zeros, not the letter O). 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.

### **FINAL EXAM**

There **WILL** be an **on-campus (or proctored) final exam** for this course; you will have your choice of the following times to take it (**do not send time requests now**):

- Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:20 pm or 7:30-9:20 pm;
- Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:20 pm or 7:30-9:20 pm;
- With my on-campus Math 105 classes, Tues or Thurs morning, June 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>.
- If you live out of town, I am willing to discuss finding a proctor to administer the exam, which would need to be completed by noon on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Please see your syllabus for further details.

I look forward to "meeting" you all online! **I've set BlackBoard and Connect Math to open up on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in case you want to get an early start, but I will not be aggressively posting until the start date on February 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Prof. Toner

**\*\*\*\*\*Your first "Response Required Assignment" is to send me an email ([stephen.toner@vvc.edu](mailto:stephen.toner@vvc.edu)).** Please give the email the title "RRA#1". In the body of the message, please write (or copy): **"My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I have received the welcome letter and have read the syllabus for Math 42. I understand that there will be an on-campus (or proctored) final exam for this class."** That's it... simply send me a message for your first RRA (Response Required Assignment). All you have to do is copy-and-paste the highlighted sentences above and send it to me. **Please send me this to me by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> to receive full credit.** After that, you will lose 2 points per day (or fraction thereof) for each day it is late.