

ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA

MATH 42 ONLINE, FALL 2014
SECTIONS #49275, 49279, 49312 & 49326 (4 UNITS)

INSTRUCTOR



Name	STEPHEN TONER
Office	Bldg 31 (Science), office 51
Phone	760.245.4271 ext. 2770
Email	Stephen.Toner@vvc.edu
Websites	www.stevetoner.com, www.MathVideos.Net
Office Hours	Tues & Thurs 8:00 AM - 10:05 AM

COURSE

DESCRIPTION

Course covers a review of arithmetic operations with whole, decimal, fractional and signed numbers, exponential notation, percentages, and order of operations. Algebraic expressions, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, polynomial operations and polynomial factoring, rational and radical expressions and equations, quadratic equations and solutions to quadratic equations are also covered.

PREREQUISITES

Math 10 with a grade of "B" or better, Math 12 with a grade of "C" or better, or by eligibility by placement on the VVC assessment exam. You may be asked to provide written proof that you have met this prerequisite. Acceptable forms of proof include (but are not limited to) VVC Assessment Test results, WebAdvisor or MicroGrade printout, or prerequisite challenge approval.

TEXTBOOK / MATERIALS



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

Online access at <http://www.connectmath.com/>. You will need an access code. You can purchase the Connect Plus access code directly from the website (\$92.50) or from the Rams bookstore for \$125.75 (or packaged with a paper version of the text for \$146.60).

Online access is required and includes complete digital access to your e-books, videos and homework. Your course Code is **3XU3H-KF9RA**. You may begin the registration process at Connect Math beginning August 20th, but the class will not officially begin until Monday, August 25th.

The 2-week financial aid code for this course is **EA13D-8416B-3F0CB-49309**. 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.

HOMWORK

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.

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 5 scores from your homework assignments at the end of the term before calculating your final grade.

LECTURE NOTES AND VIDEOS

First, you will want to go to www.mathvideos.net, my video website, and click on the Elementary 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.**

CHAPTER TESTS

We will have 9 chapter tests and one proctored final exam. For each chapter test, you will only be allowed ONE 90-minute attempt. 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.

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.

There will be several 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	30% of your grade	A: [88,100)
Online Homework	25% of your grade	B: [78,88)
Discussion Board / RRA Assignments	10% of your grade	C: [70,78)
Comprehensive Final Exam (see page 5)	35% of your grade	D: [65,70)
		F: [0, 65)



Your official grade is located in the Grade Book at Connect Math, not within Blackboard.

PHILOSOPHY

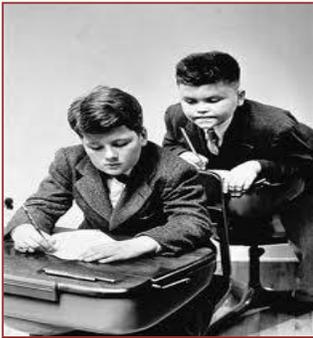
While taking an online class is convenient for your schedule, the same dedication is necessary as for an on-site class. If this class were on-site, you would be spending about 5 hours per week in class and travel to class, plus another 6-8 hours per week doing homework. That same 11-13 hours per week 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 that is undermining your classroom experience and chances of success.

CALCULATORS

Calculators are not allowed at any time in this course, unless prompted online through Connect. Most of the homework problems have been chosen such that a calculator really should not be needed at all. 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 10 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 09-02-14 (the start of the second week of class).

MISCELLANY

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

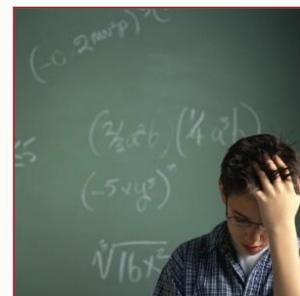
You are strongly encouraged to get tutoring or go to the Math Success Center, study in groups, and see me for help outside of class. All of these are free! Students that get help outside of class are typically much more successful than those that do not.

Regular Math Success Center hours are:

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (starting the second week of class)

The Math Lab is located in building 42 (the Academic Commons). Outside of these those hours, please go to the information booth at the east end of the Tech building to sign in for tutoring help.

My office hours are listed at the start of this syllabus. Appointments are also available if you are unable to meet me at those times.



STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course the student can:

1. Graph linear equations and inequalities.
2. Factor polynomials.
3. Solve a system of linear equations.
4. Simplify rational expressions.
5. Solve first and/or second-degree polynomial equation
6. Translate words into algebraic expressions and equations.

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, sometimes the cause may be too many versions of Java running in your system. If this is the case, go into your Control Panel, uninstall both Java and Aleks. Then go to the download page mentioned above and re-install Java first, followed by Aleks. This will solve many of the issues that students typically face.

VVC CALENDAR



Fall Term Begins	Aug. 25
Labor Day Holiday (college closed)	Sept. 1
Last Day to Drop without a "W" grade	Sept. 7
Last Day to Drop and still receive a "W"	Oct. 10
Veteran's Day Holiday (college closed)	Nov. 10
Thanksgiving Break (no classes)	Nov. 27-28
Fall Semester Ends	Dec. 12

OUR CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Section	Deadline
0		Early Start...	Connect Math course becomes available on Wednesday, August 20th, 2014
1	08.25 - 08.30	Start Ch. 1	
2	09.01 - 09.07	Finish Ch. 1	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 1 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Sept. 7
3	09.08 - 09.14	Start Ch. 2	
4	09.15 - 09.21	Finish Ch. 2	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 2 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Sept. 21
5	09.22 - 09.28	Start Ch. 3	
6	09.29 - 10.05	Finish Ch. 3	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 3 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Oct. 5
7	10.06 - 10.12	Start Ch. 4	*October 11th, 2013 is the last day to drop the course and still receive a "W" grade.
8	10.13 - 10.19	Finish Ch. 4	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 4 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Oct. 19
9	10.20 - 10.26	ALL Ch. 5	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 5 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Oct. 26
10	10.27 - 11.02	Start Ch. 6	
11	11.03 - 11.09	Finish Ch. 6	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 6 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Nov. 9
12	11.10 - 11.16	Start Ch. 7	
13	11.17 - 11.23	Finish Ch. 7; Start Ch. 8	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 7 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Nov. 23
14	11.24 - 11.30	More Ch. 8	
15	12.01 - 12.07	Finish Ch. 8; Start Ch. 9a	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 8 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Dec. 7
16	12.08 - 12.12	Finish Ch. 9a	All HW and Chapter Test for Ch. 9a must be submitted by 4:00 PM on FRIDAY, Dec. 12
	Dec. 12		FINAL EXAM on-campus from either 4:00-5:50 pm or from 6:00-7:50 pm

FINAL EXAM

A comprehensive final exam will be given the final day of class on Friday, December 12th. If you are finished with the course early, you may schedule a time to take the final exam in one of Professor Toner's on-campus classes at 10:15 am during the last week of class, on December 9th or 11th.

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 in November, 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 third week of class, Sept 14, 2014**. Specific arrangements will be made with those students after October 10th (the "W" drop deadline).