

# Fall 2007 Course Syllabus

## Math 50 – Elementary Algebra

### (Online)



Sections # 16457, 16459 (4 units)  
MyMathLab ID: toner60174

*Since this syllabus is our contract, I suggest you study it well and print a copy to keep by your computer.*

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**Instructor:** Stephen Toner

**Web Page:** <http://www.stevetoner.com>

**E-mail:** [toners@vvc.edu](mailto:toners@vvc.edu) (Include your name in subject line)

**VVC voicemail:** 245-4271 ext. 2770

**Office:** Bldg 30 (Liberal Arts), office "U"

**Office Hours:** MW: 9:35 - 10:05 am

M,T,W,Th: 7:00 - 7:50 am

**Fall Calendar:**

Aug. 27 Classes Begin

Sept. 3 Labor Day Holiday

Nov. 5 Last day to drop with a "W" grade

Nov. 12 Veteran's Day Holiday

Dec. 15 End of Fall semester

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**Textbook:** *Introductory Algebra, 10/e*, by Bittinger. All students must register for this course at MyMathLab.com using the Course ID: **toner60174**. Your textbook can be purchased new from the [VVC Rams Bookstore](#) (bundled with MyMathLab **at no extra charge**). Or, if you purchase a used textbook, access to MyMathLab can be procured online at [www.mymathlab.com](http://www.mymathlab.com) for approximately \$50. MyMathLab is a requirement for this online course.

**Course Description:** This course covers signed number arithmetic, square roots, order of operations and algebraic expressions. It also covers equation solving, factoring, graphs of linear equations and solving systems of equations.

**Attendance Policy:** It is your responsibility to keep your enrollment status current. You risk receiving an "F" if you decide to quit without officially withdrawing. You are responsible for checking the announcement page and discussion board regularly. All online homework assignments and exams **must** be submitted on or before posted due dates (as listed below).

**A Note about calculators:** Calculators are not allowed at any time in this course. 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 will be considered grounds for failure.

**My Philosophy:** Online math classes tend to be more difficult than traditional math classes because of the amount of reading involved and the absence of face-to-face communication. An online math class may also require **more time expenditure** because the student needs to obtain course materials and competency from a variety of sources, i.e., a required textbook or interactive multi-media textbook, video lectures, audio glossary, various web sites, practice exams, etc..

Online courses are not for everyone. They are intended for students who are unable, for various reasons, to attend class regularly in the traditional face-to-face setting. **If you are looking for an "easy way out" of the rigor found in the traditional classroom, this online class will not likely suit you.**

**Learning involves interaction.** To be successful in this course, it would be wise for you to devote an abundance of hours using all of the resources available to you. Do not forget that I am one of your major resources. Many students try to make this class into an independent study course, (unsuccessfully, I might add!). **Please make every effort to watch the video lectures, as they are your primary means of instruction.**

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**Grading Policies:** Each chapter's online homework will count as 24 points toward your overall point total. (I will drop your lowest online HW chapter score before computing your grade.) To earn full participation points you need to log in to the website and do **some** HW at least 3 days each week (I can check your activity via my control panel.)

Online homework	– 25 points per chapter for 9 chapters (lowest chapter dropped)	200 points
Participation	– 3 points per week	48 points
Chapter Exams	– 25 points per chapter for 9 chapters (lowest chapter dropped)	200 points
Online Midterm Exam 1	– covering Chapters 1-3 due 09/30/07 by 11:59 PM	300 points
Online Midterm Exam 2	– covering Chapters 4-6 due 11/04/07 by 11:59 PM	300 points
Online Final Exam	– covering Chapters 7-9.3 due 12/15/07 by 11:59 PM	300 points
<b>Total Points Possible:</b>		<b>1348</b>

### Grading Scale

1186 to 1348 = A (88.00% or above)

1051 to 1185 = B (78% - 87.99%)

943 to 1050 = C (70% - 77.99%)

876 to 942 = D (65% - 69.99%) (A "D" is a useless grade, so the usual 60% cutoff is ignored.)

Below 876 = F

### Notes for the Table below:

- These are the suggested dates for you to study the sections and practice the sections within the text. **Do not procrastinate. Deadlines will be strictly adhered to.**

Week 1	Aug 27 – Sept 1	Start Ch 1	
Week 2	Sept 2 – Sept 8	Finish Ch 1 Start Ch 2	All HW and Chapter Exam for chapter 1 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday Sept 9th.
Week 3	Sept 9 – Sept 15	Finish Ch 2	All HW and Chapter Exam for chapter 2 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday Sept 16th.
Week 4	Sept 16 – Sept 22	Start Ch 3	
Week 5	Sept 23 – Sept 29	Finish Ch 3	All HW and Chapter Exam for chapter 3 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on <b>Saturday</b> Sept 29.
			<b>ONLINE MIDTERM EXAM</b> (Ch. 1-3) to be taken between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM on <b>Sunday</b> , Sept <b>30th</b> (Set 3 hours aside!)
Week 6	Sept 30 – Oct 6	Start Ch 4	
Week 7	Oct 7 – Oct 13	Finish Ch 4 Start Ch 5	All HW and Chapter Exam for chapter 4 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday Oct 14th.
Week 8	Oct 14 – Oct 20	Finish Ch 5	All HW and Chapter Exam for chapter 5 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday Oct 21st.
Week 9	Oct 21 – Oct 27	Start Ch 6	
Week 10	Oct 28 – Nov 3	Finish Ch 6	All HW and Chapter Exam for chapter 6 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on <b>Saturday</b> Nov 3rd.
			<b>ONLINE MIDTERM EXAM</b> (Ch. 4-6) to be taken between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM on <b>Sunday</b> , Nov <b>4th</b> (Set 3 hours aside!)
			<b>* Last day to drop and still receive a "W" is Nov. 5th</b>
Week 11	Nov 4 – Nov 10	Start Ch 7	
Week 12	Nov 11 – Nov 17	Finish Ch 7	All HW and Chapter Exam for chapter 7 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday Nov 18th.
Week 13	Nov 18 – Nov 24	Start Ch 8	
Week 14	Nov 25 – Dec 1	Finish Ch 8	All HW and Chapter Exam for chapter 8 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday Dec 2nd.
Week 15	Dec 2 – Dec 8	Start Ch 9	
Week 16	Dec 9 – Dec 15	Finish Ch 9	All HW and Chapter Exam for chapter 9 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on <b>Friday</b> Dec 14th.
			<b>ONLINE FINAL EXAM</b> (Ch. 7-9.3) to be taken between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM on <b>Saturday</b> , December <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> . (Set 3 hours aside!)

## Student Code of Conduct

### Selected Codes from the Student Handbook:

**Any student found to have committed the following misconduct is subject to disciplinary sanctions:**

- ❖ Acts of dishonesty, including, but not limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.
- ❖ Disruption or obstruction of teaching.
- ❖ Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion, and/or other conduct that threatens or endangers the health and safety of any person.
- ❖ Failure to comply with directions of Victor Valley College officials (including faculty) or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties.
- ❖ Conduct which is disorderly lewd, indecent, or obscene or expression which interferes with the college's primary educational responsibility.

### Cheating and Plagiarism Defined:

**The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to:**

- ❖ Use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations or
- ❖ Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments or
- ❖ Acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the VVC faculty or staff.

**The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to:**

- ❖ The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.
- ❖ It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

(Please see the VVC Student Handbook for other elements of the Student Code of Conduct.)

### Course and College Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism:

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 and **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.

### Miscellaneous Items:

- ❖ In accordance with college policy, only students who are registered for this course are allowed to be present in the classroom during testing sessions. Unregistered friends, family members, or others cannot legally attend.
  - ❖ Withdrawal from this course is the solely the responsibility of the student.
  - ❖ If you have a learning disability or physical need that requires special accommodation, please advise me **prior to 09-09-07** (the start of the second week of class).
  - ❖ Students are encouraged to read the Victor Valley College Catalog for additional information on college policies, student rights, and student responsibilities.
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**Student Time Commitment:** As per the fall 2007 schedule of classes,

“The hours/week arranged listed for online classes must be fulfilled through an arrangement established between the instructor and the student. They do not represent an increase in the total number of hours for an online class. Hours/week arranged do not have to be fulfilled by in-person class attendance. Consult with your instructor for information about fulfilling the hours/week arranged requirement.”

Here is how we will “meet” the 4.5 hours per week criterion:

**(The following is just a technical justification of hours spent—your hours may vary)**

In our class, there will be several forms of online instruction. Each section of the text has an online video lecture which lasts an average of 20 minutes. Each section of the online multimedia textbook contains “extras” such as “You Try It”, “Explore”, and “Video,” segments; you are expected to spend at least 15 minutes in each. (This is roughly 35 minutes per section of the text, of which there are 62 that you will cover this fall session. This amounts to **36 hours**, if you are counting!)

In this class, you are also expected to do online homework for all 62 sections as well as chapter reviews. At 30 minutes each, this amounts to **31 hours** of homework (minimum).

You are also expected to communicate with your instructor and fellow classmates via our Discussion Board for about 30 minutes per week (for a total of **8 hours** during the 6-week session.)

For those adding these hours, there is a minimum of 75 hours of scheduled time for learning, or an average of 4.68 hours per week.

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