

Fall 2005 Course Syllabus

Victor Valley College

Math 50 – Elementary Algebra (Online)

Section number 1746 (4 units)
MyMathLab ID: toner74383

Since this is our contract, I suggest you print it out and use it for reference.

Instructor: Stephen Toner Web Page: <http://www.stevetoner.com>

email: toners@vvc.edu –Please write your name and Math 50 online in the subject line.

VVC voicemail: 245-4271 ext. 2770
Office: Bldg 30 (Liberal Arts), office “U”
Office Hours: Wed: 8:05 - 8:50 am
 M,T,W,Th: 11:15 - 11:45 am
 Tues: 2:05 - 3:30 pm

Fall Calendar:
Aug. 29 Classes Begin
Sept. 5 Labor Day Holiday
Nov. 7 Last day to drop with a “W” grade
Nov. 11 Veteran’s Day Holiday
Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 15 End of Fall semester

Fall 2005 Exam Calendar:

Friday, Oct. 14	First Exam	9:00 am – 11:00 am
Friday, Nov. 18	Midterm Exam	9:00 am – 11:00 am
Friday, Dec. 16	Final Exam	9:00 am – 11:00 am

NOTE: Nov. 7th is the last day to drop and still receive a “W” grade.

*On each exam date, there will be an optional Q&A session which will begin at 8:00 am.

To each scheduled exam, bring a valid Photo ID (No ID...No Exam) and pencils with you.
Each on-campus exam will be administered in building 30 (Liberal Arts), room 6 (lake side).

Calculators and PDA use will not be allowed during testing sessions.

These exam dates are **mandatory** for this online course. Mark your calendar accordingly. There will be **no make-up exams**.

If alternate testing dates are required for a verifiably valid reason, appropriate and acceptable arrangements **must** be scheduled with the instructor **prior to 09-12-05**. Otherwise, no exceptions for testing will be made.

Prerequisite: Math 10 (167) or Math 12 (159) with a grade of "C" or better, or eligibility as determined by placement on the VVC assessment exam. **Be sure that you meet this requirement.**

Textbook: *Introductory Algebra, 9th edition*, by Bittinger. All students must register for this course at MyMathLab.com using the Course ID: **toner74383**. Your textbook can be purchased new from the [VVC Rams Bookstore](#) (bundled with MyMathLab **at no extra charge**). If you purchase a used textbook, access to MyMathLab can be procured online at www.mymathlab.com for approximately \$42. 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 class pages regularly, for posting responses and asking relevant questions. All online homework assignments **must** be submitted on or before posted due dates (Please refer to the Course Schedule document for due dates).

Grading Policies: Each on-campus exam will count as 300 points toward your overall point total. Each chapter's online exam will earn you up to 20 points. (I will drop your lowest online exam before computing your grade.) Online exams must be completed by the times listed in the Course Schedule.

First Exam – Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 7	300 points	10-14-05
Midterm Exam – Chapters 4, 5, 6	300 points	11-18-05
Final Exam – Chapters 8, 9, and 10	300 points	12-16-05
Participation (Discussion Board & Phone Conferences)	70 points	
<u>Online Chapter Exams</u>	<u>180 points</u>	
TOTAL	150 points	

Grading Scale

1010 to 1150 = A

905 to 1009 = B

805 to 904 = C

740 to 804 = D

Below 739 = F

Calculators: Calculators are helpful for learning concepts and useful as a study aid, but will **not** be allowed during exams.

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.**

**** Complete the online Homework-Test within the time frame allowed. You will be given three 150-minute attempts to complete the chapter Homework-Test. The highest of the three scores will count toward the homework portion of your grade. **Note: The Homework-Tests are only summary reviews to show me that you are keeping on task. Your actual on-campus exams will not necessarily be based on these Homework-Tests. You are responsible for mastering all problems styles within the given sections of the text.****

Week	Dates	Suggested Sections In Text *	Homework-Tests **	Exam Dates
1	8-29 through 9-2	Chapter R	Chapter R Practice HW-Test (Optional – not part of your grade) Available: Mon, Aug 22 nd at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Sept 4 th at 11:59 pm	
2	9-5 through 9-9	Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Sept 2 nd at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Sept 11 th at 11:59 pm	
3	9-12 through 9-16	Start Chapter 2		
4	9-19 through 9-23	Finish Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Sept 9 th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Sept 25 th at 11:59 pm	
5	9-26 through 9-30	Chapter 3		Optional Online Phone Conference - Monday, 9-26-05 from 8-9 PM – Topic: Graphing
6	10-3 through 10-7	Finish Chapter 3 Start Chapter 7	Chapter 3 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Sept 23 rd at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Oct 9 th at 11:59 pm	
7	10-10 through 10-14	Finish Chapter 7	Chapter 7 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Sept 30 th at 12:01 am Due by: <u>Thurs</u> , Oct 13 th at 11:59 pm	Friday, Oct. 14 th ON-CAMPUS Exam Chapters 1,2,3,7
8	10-17 through 10-21	Chapter 4	Chapter 4 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Oct 14 th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Oct 23 rd at 11:59 pm	
9	10-24 through 10-28	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Oct 21 st at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Oct 30 th at 11:59 pm	Optional Online Phone Conference - Sun, 10-30-05 from 8-9 PM – Topic: Ch. 6
10	10-31 through 11-4	Start Chapter 6		
11	11-7 through 11-11	Finish Chapter 6	Chapter 6 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Oct 28 th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Nov 13 th at 11:59 pm	*last day to drop class is Nov 7 th (and still receive a “W” grade)
12	11-14 through 11-18	Chapter 8	Chapter 8 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Nov 4 th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Nov 20 th at 11:59 pm	Friday, Nov. 18 th ON-CAMPUS Exam Chapters 4,5,6
13	11-21 through 11-25	Start Chapter 9		Optional Online Phone Conference - Mon, 11-21-05 from 8-9 PM – Topic: Ch. 9
14	11-28 through 12-2	Finish Chapter 9	Chapter 9 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Nov 25 th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Dec 4 th at 11:59 pm	
15	12-5 through 12-9	Start Chapter 10		
16	12-12 through 12-16	Finish Chapter 10	Chapter 10 Homework-Test Available: Fri, Dec 2 nd at 12:01 am Due by: <u>Thurs</u> , Dec 15 th at 11:59 pm	Friday, Dec. 16 th ON-CAMPUS Exam Chapters 8,9,10

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.**

Student Time Commitment: As per the fall 2005 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:

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 15 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 30 minutes per section of the text, of which there are 65 that you will cover this fall session. This amounts to **32.5 hours**, if you are counting!)

In this class, you are also expected to take an online practice exam and online unit exam for each of 10 chapters. You should spend approximately 2 hours on each (for a total of **40 hours**.) We will have three on-campus exams and review sessions (3 hours each) for a total of **9 hours** on-campus. If you attend the optional online phone conferences, there are 3 more possible hours of instructor contact.

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 16-week session.)

For those adding these hours, there is a minimum of 92.5 hours of scheduled time for learning, or an average of 5.78 hours per week. You are expected to do homework exercises and practice in addition to these minimum hours.

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 09-12-05** (the end 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.