Instructor: Stephen Toner
Web Page: http://www.stevetoner.com
e-mail: toners@vvc.edu (Include your name in subject line)
VVC voicemail: 245-4271 ext. 2770
Office: Bldg 30 (Liberal Arts), office "U"
Office Hours: M,T,W,Th: 7:20 - 7:40 am
             Mon & Wed: 9:50 – 11:15 am

Fall Calendar:

Aug. 30	Classes Begin
Sept. 6	Labor Day Holiday
Nov. 8	Last day to drop with a "W" grade
Nov. 12	Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov. 25-28	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 16	End of Fall semester

Prerequisite: Math 10, Math 12 or Math 50A with a grade of "C" or better. **You may be asked to bring written proof that you have met this prerequisite on the second day of class.** Acceptable forms of proof include (but are not limited to) VVC Assessment Test results, WebAdvisor or MicroGrade printout, or prerequisite challenge approval.

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.

You are required to attend class every day. After **4** hours of absence, you **may be dropped** from this class. It is **your responsibility** to keep your enrollment status current. You risk an "F" if you stop attending without officially withdrawing. Do not bring friends or children to class. **Please turn any cell phones or pagers to silent mode during class time.** No cell phones will be allowed on your desk during exams. We are here to learn; please refrain from texting during class.

Textbook: *Introductory Algebra, 2nd edition,* Miller / O'Neill / Hyde.
   Choice #1: Purchase ALEKS online for $67, tax included. Electronic access to text included.
   Choice #2: Purchase ALEKS from VVC bookstore for $86.95 plus tax (same as choice #1, but you can use your financial aid). Electronic access to text included.
   Choice #3: Purchase loose-leaf version of text at VVC bookstore for $145.95 plus tax. ALEKS access is   included in the bundle.
Go to "www.aleks.com**/sign_up"** and enter the Course Code: **9K9EW-3HHDN**. If you have an access code, enter it. Otherwise, click on "purchase an access code online" link. Choose the 18-week option for $67.

In a way, this is a "bookless" class. While lecturing, I will refer to exercises within the text, but no homework will be required from the text, only from ALEKS (see below). If you go with Choice #1 or Choice #2 above, you will still have access to the book electronically. If you desire to have a book to hold and read, that will be at your discretion. You will not be required to have a copy of the text with you at class meetings.

Lecture Notes for the class can be downloaded at http://www.vvc.edu/academic/mathematics/toners.shtml.

Homework Policy: Practice is essential. You will also be responsible for filling in the appropriate pieces of your ALEKS pie. Chapter "deadline suggestions" denoted by dotted lines on your ALEKS pie will be posted to mark your progress through the course. At the end of the semester, the percentage of your pie which you

have completed will count as two test scores. Do not fall too far behind in your ALEKS pie work, as ALEKS will assign you material sequentially.

In addition to the Aleks Pie work, you may **choose** to work homework exercises which correspond to sections in your text. For each chapter of optional homework you complete, any points beyond 85% will be added to the test covering those particular chapters. (For example, if you have an overall average of 90% on the homework in chapter 4, 5% will be added to the exam covering that chapter. If your average were to be 95%, 10% would be added.)

Helpful ALEKS Reminders:

- Your initial ALEKS assessment is **the most important** assignment of the semester, as it will establish your starting point for the semester's homework assignments. **Set a couple of hours aside for this first assessment!**

- Every time you complete <u>20 topics</u> or spend <u>10 hours</u> working, ALEKS will reassess your progress on recent material in order to verify whether you have mastered the material or not (unless it is within 48 hours of a scheduled exam). You may find that it will skip you forward or drop you backward based on the answers you enter.

- If you get stuck on a particular problem, hitting the explain button **while working on your pie** may increase the number of exercises you need to get right to complete each topic. Try instead to hit the explain button while working in the homework portion of Aleks in order to avoid additional problems. If a particular problem style causes you too much difficulty, print or write out the problem and bring it to class. Move on to a different topic so as not to frustrate yourself too much.

- Taking good notes while working through your ALEKS pie will give you valuable examples to look at when you are given periodic assessments (but you may not use your Aleks notes during an in-class exam!)

Grading Policies: Grades will be based on your ALEKS Pie (worth 250 points), all chapter tests and pop quizzes, and a cumulative, comprehensive final exam (worth three tests). Your <u>two</u> lowest 100-point scores (not your Aleks Pie) will be dropped (even if that means only counting the final exam to be worth one test). No calculators may be used on any exam unless provided online by ALEKS. No notes or "cheat sheets" will be allowed on any exam. Any test not taken will be regarded as a zero. You are expected to complete all exams during class on the dates and times scheduled. **No make-up or re-take exams will be given.**

Aleks Test Ch 1 _____/100	Aleks Test Ch 6 _____/100	Written Final _____/100
Aleks Test Ch 2 _____/100	Aleks Test Ch 7 _____/100	Written Final _____/100
Aleks Test Ch 3 _____/100	Aleks Test Ch 8 _____/100	Written Final _____/100
Aleks Test Ch 4 _____/100	Aleks Test Ch 9 _____/100	
Aleks Test Ch 5 _____/100	Pop Quizzes _____/100	Aleks Pie _____/250

Grading Scale: **A**=90% or above; **B**=80%-89.9%; **C**=70%-79.9%; **D**=65%-69.9%; **F**=below 65%

Tutoring will be available in the Math Lab Monday through Friday afternoons, from 1:30-5:15 pm. If you need any tutoring help or use of math computers, please go to room 21-157 (in the Advanced Technology building) during those hours. Outside of those hours, please go to the information booth at the east end of the Tech building to sign in for tutoring help.

Tentative Class Schedule

An effort will be made to adhere as closely as possible to this schedule. If we can ever "get ahead" of the pace, we will take the opportunity to do so, just in case we need extra time on other material, later in the course. Test dates are **fixed**, however. They will not change, regardless of our progress through the course.

		Sections to be Covered In Class			Sections to be Covered In Class
T	8/31	Aleks, Intro, 1.1, 1.2	T	10/26	6.5, 6.6
Th	9/2	1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6	Th	10/28	6.7, 6.8
T	9/7	Review, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3	T	11/2	Review, 7.1, 7.2
Th	9/9	2.4, 2.5, 2.6a	Th	11/4	**Test Ch. 5 & 6**
T	9/14	2.7, 2.8	T	11/9	7.3, 7.4
Th	9/16	Review, 3.1, 3.2	Th	11/11	7.5, review, 7.6,
T	9/21	**Test Ch. 1 & 2**	T	11/16	7.7, 7.8
Th	9/23	3.3, 3.4	Th	11/18	Review, 8.1, 8.2
T	9/28	3.5, 3.6 (skip 3.7, 3.8)	T	11/23	8.3, 8.4, 8.5
Th	9/30	4.1, 4.2, 4.3	Th	11/25	Thanksgiving Holiday – campus closed
T	10/5	4.4, 4.5	T	11/30	8.6, 9.1 (skip 8.7)
Th	10/7	Review, 5.1, 5.2	Th	12/2	Review ch 7,8
T	10/12	**Test Ch. 3 & 4**	T	12/7	**Test Ch. 7 & 8**
Th	10/14	5.3, 5.4, 5.5	Th	12/9	9.2, 9.3
T	10/19	5.6, 5.7, 6.1	T	12/14	Review, **Test Chapter 9**
Th	10/21	6.2, 6.3, 6.4	Th	12/16	**Written Final Exam**

Deadlines

Aleks Chapter	Dotted Lines Move	Homework Due Date	Approx # of Topics Completed
1	9/10	9/21 at noon	45
2	9/22	9/21 at noon	95
3	10/1	10/12 at noon	120
4	10/13	10/12 at noon	135
5	10/22	11/4 at noon	175
6	11/5	11/4 at noon	190
7	11/19	12/7 at noon	230
8	12/8	12/7 at noon	245
9	12/15	12/14 at noon	254
Final		12/15 at noon	

Attendance Policy: 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.

Statement of 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)

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 second-degree polynomial equation