Spring 2007 Course Syllabus
Victor Valley College
Math 50 – Elementary Algebra (Online)

Section numbers 13231 and 13234 (4 units)
MyMathLab ID: toner24082

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: M & W: 11:15 - 11:45 am
**   T & Th: 9:25 - 11:05 am**

Spring Calendar:
Feb. 12   Classes Begin
April 9-13   Spring Break
May 2   Last day to drop with a "W" grade
June 9   End of Spring semester

Spring 2007 Exam Calendar: Test time #1   Test time #2

		Test time #1	Test time #2
Friday, Mar. 23	**First Exam**	**9:00 am – 11:00 am**	**Noon – 2:00 pm**
Friday, May 4	**Midterm Exam**	**9:00 am – 11:00 am**	**Noon – 2:00 pm**

NOTE: May 2nd is the last day to drop and still receive a "W" grade.

Friday, June 8	**Final Exam**	**9:00 am – 11:00 am**	**Noon – 2:00 pm**

*On each exam date, there will be an optional Q&A session which will begin at 8:30 am and 11:30 am prior to the start of the test.

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 7.

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 03-02-07. Otherwise, no exceptions for testing will be made.

Prerequisite: Math 10 or Math 12 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, 10th edition*, by Bittinger. All students must register for this course at MyMathLab.com using the Course ID: toner24082. 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 exams **must** be submitted on or before posted due dates (Please refer to the Course Schedule below 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 25 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 below.

First Exam – Chapters 1, 2, 3	300 points	3-23-07
Midterm Exam – Chapters 4, 5, 6	300 points	5-04-07
Final Exam – Chapters 7, 8, 9	300 points	6-08-07
Online Chapter Exams (lowest score dropped- 25 pts each)	200 points	
TOTAL	**1100 points**	

       Grading Scale
       968 to 1100 = A
       858 to 967 = B
       770 to 857 = C
       715 to 769 = D
       Below 715 = F

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

Notes for the Course Schedule 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	2-12 through 2-16	Chapter R	**Chapter R Practice HW-Test (Optional – not part of your grade)** Available: Mon, Feb 5th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Feb 18th at 11:59 pm	
2	2-19 through 2-23	Chapter 1	**Chapter 1 Homework-Test** Available: Mon, Feb 5th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Feb 25th at 11:59 pm	
3	2-26 through 3-02	Start Chapter 2		
4	3-05 through 3-09	Finish Chapter 2	**Chapter 2 Homework-Test** Available: Fri, Mar 2nd at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Mar 11th at 11:59 pm	
5	3-12 through 3-16	Start Chapter 3		
6	3-19 through 3-23	Finish Chapter 3	**Chapter 3 Homework-Test** Available: Fri, Mar 9th at 12:01 am Due by: Thurs, Mar 22nd at 11:59 pm	**Friday, March 23rd ON-CAMPUS Exam Chapters 1,2,3**
7	3-26 through 3-30	Chapter 4	**Chapter 4 Homework-Test** Available: Fri, Mar 23rd at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Apr. 1st at 11:59 pm	
8	4-02 through 4-06	Chapter 5	**Chapter 5 Homework-Test** Available: Fri, Apr 6th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Apr 15th at 11:59 pm	
	4-09 through 4-13	Spring Break!		
9	4-16 through 4-20	Start Chapter 6		
10	4-23 through 4-27	Finish Chapter 6	**Chapter 6 Homework-Test** Available: Fri, Apr 20th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, Apr 29th at 11:59 pm	*last day to drop class is May 2nd (and still receive a "W" grade)
11	4-30 through 5-04	Start Chapter 7		**Friday, May 4th ON-CAMPUS Exam Chapters 4,5,6**
12	5-07 through 5-11	Finish Chapter 7	**Chapter 7 Homework-Test** Available: Fri, May 4th at 12:01 am Due by: Sun, May 13th at 11:59 pm	
13	5-14 through 5-18	Start Chapter 8		
14	5-21 through 5-25	Finish Chapter 8	**Chapter 8 Homework-Test** Available: Fri, May 18th at 12:01 am Due by: Mon, May 28th at 11:59 pm	
15	5-28 through 6-01	Start Chapter 9		
16	6-04 through 6-08	Finish Chapter 9	**Chapter 9 Homework-Test** Available: Fri, May 25th at 12:01 am Due by: Thurs, June 7th at 11:59 pm	**Friday, June 8th ON-CAMPUS Exam Chapters 7,8,9**

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 <mark>more time expenditure</mark> 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. <mark>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.</mark>

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 Spring 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:
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 9 chapters. You should spend approximately 2 hours on each (for a total of 36 hours.) We will have three on-campus exams and review sessions (0.5 hours each) for a total of 7.5 hours on-campus.
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 84 hours of scheduled time for learning, or an average of 5.25 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 03-02-07 (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.