



Course Syllabus – Spring 2010
Math 50 - Elementary Algebra
Course #28755 (4 units)
TTh, 8:00 – 9:40 am, room 21-155

Instructor: Stephen Toner

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Office: Bldg 30 (Liberal Arts), office “U”

Office Hours: M,T,W,Th: 7:20 - 7:40 am

Tues & Thurs: 9:50 – 11:15 am

Spring Calendar:

Feb. 16 Classes Begin

Apr. 9-17 Spring Break

May 7 Last day to drop with a “W” grade

May 31 Memorial Day Holiday

June 12 End of Spring semester

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.**

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 \$63, 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: **9CTC4-HU4GF**. If you have an access code, enter it. Otherwise, click on “purchase an access code online” link. Choose the 18-week option.

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.

Homework Policy: Practice is essential. All ALEKS homework for a given chapter will be due on the day of the test for that chapter. The average of these ALEKS homework assignment scores will count as one test.

In addition to completing homework through ALEKS, 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 tests. Do not fall too far behind in your ALEKS pie work, as ALEKS will assign you material sequentially.

ALEKS Notebook(s): You will also turn in a notebook consisting of your written work completed while working on ALEKS through the semester. Your ALEKS notebook(s) will be collected twice. On the day of your test covering Chapters 3 & 4, you will earn up to 40 points. On the day of your Final Exam you will earn up to the remaining 60 points. Your ALEKS notebook(s) should contain the following sections:

- 16 weekly printouts or your ALEKS Pie showing your course mastery level (number of topics mastered) and the date printed. This will constitute half of your notebook points.
- all of your work done while working through ALEKS. This will constitute the other half of your notebook grade. Your work should be organized and reflect a minimum of 4 hours of work per week, Monday through Sunday.

Helpful ALEKS Reminders:

- Your initial ALEKS assessment is **the most important**, 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 20 topics or spend 10 hours 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 24 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 notebook during an in-class exam!)

Grading Policies: Grades will be based on your ALEKS Pie (worth two tests), the average percentage score of your ALEKS homework assignments, all unit tests, your ALEKS notebook(s), and a cumulative, comprehensive final exam (worth two unit tests) You may replace your lowest score from the first or second column below with your final exam score, should it be higher. No calculators may be used on any exam unless provide online by ALEKS. No notes or "cheat sheets" will be allowed on any exam. You may not refer to your ALEKS notebook during tests. 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.**

Replaceable

Aleks Test Ch 1,2 _____
Aleks Test Ch 3,4 _____
Aleks Test Ch 5,6 _____
Aleks Test Ch 7,8 _____

Aleks HW average _____
Aleks Pie _____
Aleks Pie _____

Not droppable:

Aleks Notebook(s) _____ , _____
Written Final _____
Written Final _____

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 21-155 (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	2/16	Aleks, Intro, 1.1, 1.2	T	4/20	6.5, 6.6
Th	2/18	1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6	Th	4/22	6.7, 6.8
T	2/23	Review, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3	T	4/27	Review / flex day
Th	2/25	2.4, 2.5, 2.6a (Aleks Ch 1 “due”)	Th	4/29	Review, 7.1, 7.2
T	3/2	2.7, 2.8	T	5/4	Test Ch. 5 & 6 (Aleks Ch 6 “due”)
Th	3/4	Review, 3.1, 3.2	Th	5/6	7.3, 7.4
T	3/9	Test Ch. 1 & 2 (Aleks Ch 2 “due”)	T	5/11	7.5, review, 7.6,
Th	3/11	3.3, 3.4	Th	5/13	7.7, 7.8
T	3/16	3.5, 3.6 (skip 3.7, 3.8)	T	5/18	Review, 8.1, 8.2 (Aleks Ch 7 “due”)
Th	3/18	4.1, 4.2, 4.3 (Aleks Ch 3 “due”)	Th	5/20	8.3, 8.4, 8.5
T	3/23	4.4, 4.5	T	5/25	8.6, 9.1 (skip 8.7)
Th	3/25	Review, 5.1, 5.2	Th	5/27	Review ch 7,8
T	3/30	Test Ch. 3 & 4 (Aleks Ch 4 “due”)	T	6/1	Test Ch. 7 & 8 (Aleks Ch 8 “due”)
Th	4/1	5.3, 5.4, 5.5	Th	6/3	9.2, 9.3
T	4/6	5.6, 5.7, 6.1	T	6/8	Review final exam
Th	4/8	6.2, 6.3, 6.4 (Aleks Ch 5 “due”)	Th	6/10	Written Final Exam (Aleks grade finalized)

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)