



**Math 50**  
**Introductory Algebra**  
**Course #18664 (4 units)**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Winter 2008**

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**Instructor:** Stephen Toner

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

**Class Hours:** MTWTh: 6:00–9:10 pm

**Room:** bldg. 30 (Liberal Arts), room 10

**Office:** bldg. 30, office U

**MyMathLab ID:** toner34534

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Winter Calendar:	Jan 2	Classes Begin
	Jan 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
	Jan 25	Last day to drop and receive a "W" grade
	Feb 7	Last Day of Class

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**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. This textbook can be purchased new bundled with MyMathLab (an online tutorial) at no extra charge. If you purchase a used textbook, MyMathLab can be purchased online at [www.mymathlab.com](http://www.mymathlab.com) for approximately \$42. MyMathLab is strongly recommended for supplemental use by my students.

**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 off any cell phones or pagers during class time (or switch them to silent mode).** No cell phones will be allowed on your desk during exams.

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**Homework Policy:** Practice is essential. Each student is expected to spend at least 2 hours doing homework for each hour this class meets. Homework will be checked on exam days while you are taking your exams. I expect you to practice *at least* every-other-odd exercise in your text (#1, 5, 9, 13, etc.) unless otherwise directed.

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**Grading Policies:** Grades will be based on 9 chapter exams and homework (The homework scores will collectively count as one exam score after the lowest chapter homework score is dropped). The lowest exam score (or collective homework score, if that is your choice) will be dropped before computing the term grade. No calculators, notes or "cheat sheets" will be allowed on any exam. Any exam not taken will be regarded as a zero. Students are expected to complete all exams during class on the dates and times scheduled. **No make-up or re-take exams will be given.**

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

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## 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		
			M	1/21	No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
			T	1/22	Review, <a href="#">Test Chapters 4-5</a>
W	1/2	1.1 – 1.6	W	1/23	6.3 – 6.5
Th	1/3	1.7 – 1.8, 2.1 – 2.3	Th	1/24	6.6 – 6.8
M	1/7	2.4 – 2.6	M	1/28	6.9, 7.1 – 7.3
T	1/8	2.7, 2.8, 3.1 – 3.2	T	1/29	Review, 7.4, 7.5
W	1/9	3.3 – 3.7	W	1/30	Review, 8.1 – 8.3
Th	1/10	Review, 4.1, 4.2	Th	1/31	<a href="#">Test Chapters 6-7</a>
M	1/14	4.3 – 4.6, <a href="#">Test Chapters 1-3</a>	M	2/4	8.4 – 8.6
T	1/15	4.7 – 4.8, 5.1 – 5.2	T	2/5	9.1 – 9.3
W	1/16	5.3 – 5.6	W	2/6	review
Th	1/17	5.7 – 5.8, 6.1 – 6.2	Th	2/7	<a href="#">Test Chapters 8-9</a>

**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.*