



Math 50
Introductory Algebra
Course #30225 (4 units)
Course Syllabus
Winter 2010

Instructor: Stephen Toner

Web Page: <http://www.stevetoner.com>

email: toners@vvc.edu (Include your name in subject line)

VVC voicemail: 245-4271 ext. 2770

Class Hours: MTWTh: 5:30–8:10 pm

Room: bldg. 21, room 142

Office: bldg. 30, office U

Aleks Course Code: GV9K9-FRLWW

Winter Calendar:	Jan 4	Classes Begin
	Jan 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
	Feb 1	Last day to drop and receive a "W" grade
	Feb 11	Last Day of Class

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.

Textbook: *Introductory Algebra, 2nd edition*, Miller / O'Neill / Hyde.

Choice #1: Purchase ALEKS online for \$30, \$45 or \$63, tax included. Electronic access to text included.

Choice #2: Purchase ALEKS from VVC bookstore for \$86.95 plus tax. 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 bundle.

Go to "www.aleks.com/sign_up" and enter the Course Code: **GV9K9-FRLWW**. If you have an access code, enter it. Otherwise, click on "purchase an access code online" link. Choose the 6-week option (which will cost \$30), the 11-week option (which will cost \$45) or the 18-week option (which will cost \$63.)

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. You will be responsible for filling in the appropriate pieces of your ALEKS pie. Suggested chapter deadlines will be posted to mark your progress through the course. At the end of the semester, you will receive homework credit for the portion of the ALEKS pie which you have completed. You will also turn in a notebook consisting of your written work completed while working on ALEKS through the semester. This notebook should also contain six weekly printouts of your Pie progress, showing the amount of time spent on Aleks each week. Do not fall too far behind in your ALEKS homework, as ALEKS will assign you material sequentially. For example, you may want to practice chapter 4 material in order to prepare for a test, but ALEKS will require you to show proficiency in chapter 3 first. Don't try to "out-wit" the artificial intelligence of ALEKS!

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.

Grading Policies: Grades will be based on your ALEKS Pie progress "homework" (worth two tests), 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. 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.**

Replaceable

Aleks Test Ch 1-3 _____
 Aleks Test Ch 1-3 _____
 Aleks Test Ch 4-6 _____

Aleks Pie _____
 Aleks Pie _____

Not droppable:

Aleks Notebook(s) _____
 Final _____
 Final _____

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

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	1/4	Aleks, Intro, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5		M	1/25	6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4
T	1/5	1.6, Review, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3		T	1/26	6.5, 6.6, Aleks (Aleks Ch 5 "due")
W	1/6	2.4, 2.5, 2.6		W	1/27	6.7, 6.8, Review
Th	1/7	2.7, 2.8, Aleks		Th	1/28	7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, Aleks
M	1/11	Review, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 (Aleks Ch 1 "due")		M	2/1	Aleks Test Ch. 4-6 (Aleks Ch 6 "due")
T	1/12	3.4, 3.5, 3.6 (Aleks Ch 2 "due")		T	2/2	7.5, Review, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8
W	1/13	Review, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, Aleks		W	2/3	Review, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4
Th	1/14	Aleks Test Ch. 1-3 (Aleks Ch 3 "due")		Th	2/4	8.5, 8.6, 9.1 (skip 8.7) (Aleks Ch 7 "due")
M	1/18	No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday		M	2/8	9.2, 9.3, Aleks (Aleks Ch 8 "due")
T	1/19	4.4, 4.5, Review		T	2/9	Review
W	1/20	Review, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3		W	2/10	Aleks Test Ch. 7-9 (Aleks Ch 9 "due")
Th	1/21	5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7 (Aleks Ch 4 "due")		Th	2/11	Final Exam (Aleks Notebook due) Aleks Pie DUE

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)