

# ∞ *Math 120 - Intermediate Algebra* ∞

Dan Bach - Spring 2009 - Diablo Valley College - Section 8220 - MA 108 - Tu/Th 4<sup>00</sup>-6<sup>15</sup> PM

**Text:** Intermediate Algebra, Fifth Edition, by **Blitzer**. We will be using the *MyMathLab* component. We will cover most of Chapters 1–9 and bits of 10 and 11 as time allows, with extra topics/handouts from me.

**Prerequisite:** **Math 110** (Beginning Algebra) or equiv, with a **C or better**. I expect you to have a solid command of arithmetic and basic algebra, including symbolic and equation skills and problem-solving ability.

**Calculator:** You'll want a good scientific or graphing calculator, to check answers on homework or during class discussions. You will be allowed to use a regular calculator during tests; **graphing calculators/laptops** will be **prohibited on tests**. **No cell phones, texters, headphones, CD/MP3 players, etc. during class!**

**Grade Breakdown:** There will be 1000 possible points you can earn during the semester.

<u>Homework:</u>	<b>20%</b> (200 pts total)	<u>Tests:</u>	<b>40%</b> (400 pts, 100 pts each)
<u>Quizzes:</u>	<b>10%</b> (100 pts total)	<u>Final Exam:</u>	<b>20%</b> (200 pts)
<u>Math Lab:</u>	<b>4%</b> (40 pts, see other side)	<u>Group Work:</u>	<b>3%</b> (30 pts, see below)
<u>Discretionary:</u>	<b>3%</b> (30 pts; see below)		

*Extra Credit: Assigned throughout the course. A = 900-1000 pts, B = 800-899 pts, C = 700-799 pts, D = 600-699 pts, F = under 600 pts.*

**Attendance:** Our course material builds on what you learn as you go along, so I suggest you attend **every** class meeting. You must attend the **first two** classes, pre-registered or not, or you might lose your spot!

**Makeup Policy:** Unless you have a prior arrangement with me, or a written medical or emergency excuse, **you can not make up a missed test**. Let me know if your class has a field trip or your DVC team has a game.

**Homework and Extra Credit:** **Homework** will be assigned online using *MyMathLab*. You'll have specific assignments to complete with due dates announced in advance. There will be lots of **extra-credit** opportunities if you need to make up some points.

**Tests & Quizzes:** We will have **four** 60-minute **paper tests** during the semester, each counting 100 pts (or 10% of the semester grade), and your quizzes will be online with *MyMathLab*. If you miss a test I'll fill it in with **HALF** your online quiz score. The **final exam** covers the entire course and lasts two hours (see pg 2).

**Group Work:** Occasionally we'll have problems that you'll work on in small groups of 3 or 4 students. There will be five group problems at 6 points each, for a total of... how many points?

**Honor Policy:** Anyone found cheating on any test or quiz will be given a zero on that test or quiz, and maybe a visit to the Dean of Students if it is their first offense. A second offense will result in an F in the course and possible expulsion from DVC. There are no third offenses.

**Discretionary:** Participation or attendance do not count for points, but I reserve the right to **lower your grade** by up to 3% (3/10 of a letter grade) if you prove to be a **disturbance** in class. Some examples: (1) If I have to stop teaching because I'm waiting for you or have to ask you to **quit talking**, (2) If I have to separate you and another student or ask you to leave the class because of talking, (3) If you use **cell phones** or **texters during class**, (4) Any other behavior which makes it **difficult** for me or other students to **concentrate**. Judgment of your behavior will be subjective and final.

*(continued on the back)*

## Getting Help:

- I strongly encourage you to exchange phone numbers with one or more other students in the class. Talking about and working on the homework together can really help you to understand the material!
- Many students work together in the **Math Lab** (on second floor above the Learning Center up the hill).  
*You are **required** to average at least **two hours per week** in the lab; clock in and out on the computers. Free individual **instruction and help** is available there on a drop-in basis... sign the clipboard at the desk!*  
*Open lab hours are: **Mon-Thur** 8AM to 9<sup>50</sup> PM, **Fri** 8AM to 1<sup>50</sup> PM, **Sat-Sun** 12 to 4<sup>50</sup> PM.*
- I am always willing to answer questions during my office hours; **office MA 114**, in the Math building.  
My **office hours** are: **Mon/Wed 12<sup>00</sup>-12<sup>30</sup>**; **Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu 2<sup>45</sup>-3<sup>45</sup>** *No appointment necessary!*
- Office **phone** & messages: (925) 685-1230 ext 2800 . . . **e-mail** : [dbach@dvc.edu](mailto:dbach@dvc.edu)

## Computer Assistance:

We will use **MyMathLab** courseware to complete homework assignments and online quizzes. You will spend a lot of time in this environment, in the Math Lab or on an internet computer anywhere, Mac or Windows.

I have an active **website**: <http://www.dansmath.com> - you can click the "dvc" button for more current info (and extra credit!) during the semester. Browse my on-line math lessons, or enter the ProblemOfTheWeek contest! Use Internet Explorer on the math lab or library computers, the free DVC WiFi, or go on the web at home.

The **textbook** has a **website** you can visit for textbook-specific resources; please try it out and tell me how you like it! You can practice topics from specific sections in the book!

A **computer** algebra system, *Mathematica*, is available on all our Dells in the math lab. *Mathematica* is like an amazing calculator capable of doing infinite precision arithmetic and all the algebraic operations; it can factor, graph, or solve your equations. I will demo it in class and we might go to the lab to use it as a group.

You can **e-mail me** occasionally with questions ([dbach@dvc.edu](mailto:dbach@dvc.edu)) or hit my website ([www.dansmath.com](http://www.dansmath.com)) for lessons, math jokes, and assignments throughout the semester. Listen to my podcast (*dansmathcast*) too!

**Dropping the Course:** If you decide to drop the course, it is *your responsibility* to drop (on WebAdvisor or at the Admissions Office). If you just stop attending, you may receive an F in the course.

**Important Dates:** *put these on your calendar!*

**Last day to drop** (nothing goes on transcript): **Fri. Feb. 13**

**Last day to drop** (W appears on transcript): **Fri. Apr. 24**

**Holidays:** Fri Feb 6, Mon Feb 16, **Mon-Fri Apr. 13-17**

**Last class:** **Thur. May. 14** (Last day for any late HW or extra credit papers)

**FINAL EXAM:** **Tuesday, May 19, 2009**, from **4<sup>00</sup>PM – 6<sup>00</sup>PM**.

**You must take the final exam at the scheduled time.**

Do not make vacation plans during your finals. Even if you have more than one final on this date, I will NOT allow you to take the final at another time.