

Math 120 - Intermediate Algebra

Spring 2010 - Diablo Valley College - Dan Bach

Text: Intermediate Algebra, Fifth Edition, by Robert **Blitzer**. We will **not** be using *MyMathLab*.

We'll 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 decent scientific (or graphing) calculator, to check answers on homework or during class discussions. **You will be allowed to use calculators** (but **not graphers** or computers) **during tests**, but please, **no cell phones**, texting, headphones, or CD/MP3 players, etc. **during class** at all!

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

<u>Homework:</u>	20% (200 pts, 8 @ 25 pts each)	<u>Tests:</u>	40% (400 pts, 4 @ 100 pts each)
<u>Quizzes:</u>	10% (100 pts, 4 @ 25 pts each)	<u>Final Exam:</u>	20% (200 pts)
<u>Math Lab:</u>	4% (40 pts, see other side)	<u>Group Work:</u>	3% (30 pts, see below)
<u>Discretionary:</u>	3% (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 or quiz**. If you miss a test or quiz, that's the score I'll replace (see below).

Homework and Extra Credit: **Homework** will be assigned most class meetings, corresponding to what we covered that day, and **collected on alternate Wednesdays**. Homework (if on time) is worth 25 points. Late homework carries a five-point-per-class penalty. There will be a total of eight homework papers. You will get lots of **extra-credit** opportunities if you need to make up some points.

Tests & Quizzes: We will have **four** 60-minute **tests** during the semester, each counting 100 pts (or 10% of the semester grade), and **four** shorter (20-25 min.) **quizzes**, 25 pts each. *You can replace your lowest test score with your quiz total; you can also replace your lowest quiz score with your 4 best group scores.* (Got that?!)
The **final exam** covers the entire course and lasts two hours (see end of second page for date).

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; your top 4 can be used to replace a low or missed quiz.

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. For example if: (1) I have to stop lecturing because I'm waiting for you to **quit talking**, (2) I have to ask you specifically to quit talking or texting, (3) I have to separate you and another student or ask you to leave the class because of talking, (4) Your **cell phone**, pager, watch, etc. goes off, (5) Any other behavior which makes it difficult for students to concentrate. Judgment of your behavior will be subjective and final.

(continued on the back)

Catalog Description and Student Learning Objectives: "This course will expand upon the material covered in Elementary Algebra. Topics will include special products and factors, fractional equations, systems of linear equations, inequalities, conics, complex numbers, the binomial theorem, logarithms, and functions. The course is equivalent to a second year high school algebra course."

Students completing the course will be able to: 1. Solve any quadratic equation. 2. Perform operations with rational expressions, including simplifying the answer to lowest terms. 3. Determine the equation of a line, given its graph or two points that lie on the line.

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** (second floor above 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 drop-in **math help** is available... sign the clipboard at the tutor desk! There are also guided **ALEKS computer activities** for review.*
*Open lab hours are: **Mon-Thur** 8AM to 9⁵⁰ PM, **Fri** 8AM to 1⁵⁰ PM, **Sat-Sun** 12 to 4⁵⁰ PM.*
- I am always willing to answer questions during my office hours; **office MA 114**, in the Math building.
My **office hours** are: **Mon 3⁰⁰-4⁰⁰** / **Tue 12⁰⁰-1⁰⁰** & **4¹⁵-4⁴⁵** / **Wed 3⁰⁰-4⁰⁰** / **Thur 12³⁰-2⁰⁰** *No appt. needed!*
- Office **phone** & messages: (925) 685-1230 ext 2800 . . . **e-mail:** dbach@dvc.edu

Computer Assistance:

I have a longtime **website:** <http://www.dansmath.com> - just click the **dvc** button for more current info (and extra credit!) during the semester. Browse my on-line math **lessons**, or listen to an episode of my **podcast**, *dansmathcast*. Use the math lab or library computers, the free DVC **WiFi**, or go on the web at home.

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 or hit my website (www.dansmath.com) for lessons, podcasts, math jokes, and assignments throughout the semester.

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: (*Class meets every Mon and Wed except holidays.*)

Last day to add a full-term class (or to get a fee refund): **Thurs. Feb. 4**

Last day to drop (nothing goes on transcript): **Fri. Feb. 19**

Last day to drop (W appears on transcript): **Fri. Apr. 30**

Holidays: **Fri. Feb. 12, Mon. Feb. 15, Spring break Apr. 3-9**

Last class: **Wed. May 19, 2010** (Last day for any late HW or extra credit papers)

FINAL EXAMS: **Tuesday May 25 or Wednesday May 26, 2010.**

*** 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.