

# ∞ *Math 124 - Math For Liberal Arts* ∞

**Dan Bach - Fall 2008 - Diablo Valley College - Section 8241 - Room MA 107 - Mon 4<sup>00</sup>-6<sup>50</sup> PM**

**Text:** *Mathematics, A Practical Odyssey*, Sixth Edition, by Johnson & Mowry (of DVC!).

We will cover parts of Chapters 2, 3, 6, 7 and 11 as time allows, with some extra topics/handouts from me.

**Prerequisite:** **Math 120** (Intermediate Algebra) or equiv, with a **C or better**. I expect you to have a solid command of arithmetic and algebra, including basic symbolic and equation skills and problem-solving ability.

**Calculator:** You'll want a decent scientific (or optional graphing) calculator, to check answers on homework or during class discussions. **You will be allowed to use calculators** on all exams, but please, no laptop computers during tests, and **no cell phones**, texters, headphones, 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>  | <b>14%</b> (140 pts, 20 pts each)       | <u>Tests:</u>         | <b>30%</b> (300 pts, 100 pts each) |
| <u>Quizzes:</u>   | <b>12%</b> (120 pts total, 30 pts each) | <u>Final Exam:</u>    | <b>22%</b> (220 pts)               |
| <u>Math Lab:</u>  | <b>4%</b> (40 pts, see other side)      | <u>Group Work:</u>    | <b>5%</b> (50 pts)                 |
| <u>Term Paper</u> | <b>5%</b> (50 pts)                      | <u>Project</u>        | <b>5%</b> (50 pts)                 |
|                   |   | <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 or quiz**. If you miss a test or quiz, that's the score I'll replace (see below).

**Homework, Term Papers, Project:** **Homework** will be assigned most class meetings, corresponding to what we covered that day, and **collected on alternate Mondays**. Homework (if on time) is worth 20 points. Late homework carries a five-point-per-class penalty. There will be a total of seven homeworks. I'll assign topic choices and due dates for a (short 3-4 page) **term paper** and a **project** (both described later). There will be lots of **extra-credit** opportunities if you need to make up some points.

**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 10 pts each; your top 3 can be used to replace a low or missed quiz score.

**Tests & Quizzes:** We will have **three** 60-minute **tests** during the semester, each counting 100 pts (or 10% of the semester grade), and **four** shorter (20-25 min.) **quizzes**, 30 pts each. *You can replace your lowest test score with 5/6 of your quiz total; you can also replace your lowest quiz score with your 3 best group scores.* (Got that?!) The **final exam** covers the entire course and lasts two hours (see end of second page for date).

**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 affect your grade, 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, (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 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 **tutoring** is available there on a drop-in basis... sign the clipboard at the tutor desk!*  
*Open lab hours are: **Mon-Thur** 8AM to 9<sup>50</sup> PM, **Fri** 8AM to 3<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 2<sup>30</sup>-4<sup>00</sup>**; **Tues 3<sup>00</sup>-4<sup>00</sup>**; **Wed 2<sup>00</sup>-3<sup>30</sup>PM**; **Thur 12<sup>00</sup>-12<sup>30</sup> & 3<sup>30</sup>-4<sup>00</sup>** *No appt. nec!*
- Office **phone** & messages: (925) **685-1230** ext **2800** . . . **e-mail** : [dvc@dansmath.com](mailto:dvc@dansmath.com)

### Computer Assistance:

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 specific resources; please try it out and tell me how you like it!  
<http://www.thomsonedu.com/mathematics/johnson>

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 may demo its features in class, among other computer goodies.

You can **e-mail me** occasionally with questions ([dvc@dansmath.com](mailto:dvc@dansmath.com)) 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 (either on WebAdvisor or at the Admissions Office). If you just stop attending, you may receive an F in the course.

**Important Dates:** *(There are 15 class meetings.)*

**Last day to drop** (nothing goes on transcript): **Fri. Sept. 12**

**Last day to drop** (W appears on transcript): **Fri. Nov. 14**

**Holidays:** **Mon. Sept. 1**, Fri Sept 26, **Mon. Nov. 10**, Thur-Fri Nov. 27-28

**Last class:** **Mon. Dec. 8** (Last day for any late HW, presentations, or papers)

**FINAL EXAM: Monday, Dec 15, 2008, 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.