

Math 115: Beginning Algebra (3248)

Instructor: Bret John Carthew.

Prerequisite: "C" or better in Math 105, 110, or 112. You may also take the course if you have shown the appropriate skill shown through math placement process.

Phone: (818) 947-2392.

Time: 4:00pm to 6:30pm Tuesday and Thursday.

Class location: Math Science 105.

Office location: Math Science 104H.

Officer hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 1:36pm to 2:30pm (MS 104H), 3:40pm to 4:00pm (MS 104H), 5:20pm to 5:30pm (MS 105).

Text-book: *Beginning Algebra, 6th edition* by Martin-Gay.

Email: carthebj@lavc.edu.

Mathematics is truly a universal language. In general, it is one of the great tools of our world. It is both a means to master logical reasoning and an important part of a balanced education. The skills that you learn in this class will be very useful if you go on to other math, science, and engineering courses. Additionally the quantitative skills learned in a math course are very useful in the workplace. You must have a scientific calculator for the in class exams (cell phones may not be used as calculators). Homework questions from the previous class will only be discussed at the end of class if time allows.

In its most general form algebra is the study of symbols and the rules for manipulating symbols and is a unifying thread of all of mathematics. It is this unifying thread that makes it such an important subject for you to study. Algebra is the language of Mathematics. If you learn the subject well it can be an important skill for any quantitative aspect of any subject.

In class tests are closed book, closed notes, and most importantly closed neighbor. If you miss a scheduled test then that test score will be the one that you drop. If you miss a second scheduled test then your score on the final exam will additionally count for that second missed test. It is my firm belief that the best way to master a subject is to attempt both routine and difficult problems. Therefore some of the problems on exams will be challenging. To receive full credit you must show all the steps leading to the correct answer.

Homework will be assigned daily and must be done in order to succeed in the class. It is important that you attempt all of the assigned homework in order to have the best chance of success on the exams. If possible, homework should be done together, which you should find both helpful and enjoyable. We will cover chapters one through nine. Attendance is important for success in this course.

If we all work hard then we can all succeed. If there are changes to any of the above you will be notified in class of the changes. You are responsible for everything, including any announcements, that is presented in lecture even if you are absent on a given day.

Most Important Rule for Course: study, study and more study.

Cheating: Any cheating will lead to the most severe penalty allowed under the student discipline code.

Policy on Drops: After census week, it is solely the responsibility of the students to drop themselves from class through the Office of Admissions. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "F" in the class.

Financial aid: Financial Aid is available. Please call to find out more information 947-5561.

SLO: If you pass this course you will be able to think analytically and solve problems at the beginning algebra level. More information on Student Learning Outcomes is available at <http://www.lavc.edu/vccc/SLOs/Math115SLO.pdf>.

Calculator Policy: You must have a scientific calculator for the exams. Cell phones not allowed.

SSD: If you are a student with a disability and require classroom accommodations you may contact SSD at (818)947-2681 or Student Services Annex, Room 175.

Religious Holidays: You must give 2 weeks notice if you will miss a midterm for this reason.

Important Dates: President's Day: February 12th to 15th.
 Cesar Chavez Day: March 31st.
 Spring Break: April 1st to 8th.
 Memorial Day: May 30th.

 First Midterm: March 10th.
 Second Midterm: March 29th.
 Third Midterm: April 28th.
 Fourth Midterm: May 19th.
 Final Exam: Tuesday, May 31st, 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Drop deadline without incurring fees: February 21st via internet.
Drop deadline to not receive a "W": February 21st via internet.
Drop deadline to receive a "W": May 8th via internet.

Grades:	A	90.00% and above
	B	80.00% to 89.99%
	C	70.00% to 79.99%
	D	58.00% to 69.99%
	F	57.99% and below

Grading Percentages:

Midterms: 65% [there will be 4 of these, you can drop your lowest score].

Collaborative work and Homework: together 5% [collaborative work done in class can not be made up].

Final: 30% [not taking the final exam = "0" on the final and will likely lead to a grade of "F" in the class].

Week 1	Real Numbers, Variable Expressions and Equations.
Week 2	Solving Linear Equations and Problem Solving.
Week 3	Solving Linear Inequalities, Mixture Problems, Graphing, and Functions.
Week 4	More Graphing along with Systems of Equations.
Week 5	Graphing Systems of Linear Inequalities, Exponents, and Polynomials.
Week 6	Negative Exponents, Dividing Polynomials, GCF, and Grouping.
Week 7	Factoring Simple and Complicated Trinomials.
Week 8	More Factoring along with Solving Equations by Factoring.
Week 9	Quadratic Equations and Problem Solving.
Week 10	Rational Expressions, Adding and Subtracting with Least Common Denominator.
Week 11	Solving Rational Equations, Proportion, and Variation.
Week 12	Complex Fractions, Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying, and Dividing Radicals.
Week 13	Solving Equations with Radicals, Rational Exponents.
Week 14	Solving Quadratic Equations by Square Root Property, Completing Square, & Formula.
Week 15	Complex Solutions of Quadratic Equations and Graphing Parabolas.

“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.”

John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) *Thirty-fifth President of the USA.*

“The secret in education lies in respecting the student.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) *U.S. poet, essayist and lecturer.*

“The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.”

Aristotle (384 BC-322 BC) *Greek philosopher.*

“If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) *American statesman, scientist and philosopher.*

“If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.”

Confucius (BC 551-BC 479) *Chinese philosopher.*

