

MAC 1105: College Algebra

Fall 2019

Contact Information	
Professor:	Darren Lacoste
Office:	Building 4, Room 232
Office Hours:	See website (link below)
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Class Days and Times (Circle Yours)	
CRN 10951:	Class Tuesdays, Thursdays 10:00a – 11:15a in 9-123
CRN 12627:	Class Tuesdays, Thursdays 11:30a – 12:45p in 9-123

Catalog Course Description:

MAC 1105 College Algebra

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in MAT 1033C or appropriate score on an approved assessment. Course based on the study of functions and their role in problem solving. Topics include graphing, the linear, quadratic, and exponential families of functions, and inverse functions. Students will be required to solve applied problems and communicate their findings effectively. Technology tools will be utilized in addition to analytical methods. Gordon Rule course. Minimum grade of C required if MAC 1105 is used to satisfy Gordon Rule and general education requirements.

Book Material (In Order Presented):

- Chapter 1: Equations and Inequalities
- Chapter 2: Graphs
- Chapter 3: Functions and Their Graphs
- Chapter 4: Linear and Quadratic Functions
- Chapter 6: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions
- Chapter 8: Systems of Equations and Inequalities (If Time)
- Chapter 5: Polynomial and Rational Functions (If Time)

Course Grading Percentages:

Homework/Quizzes/Mini-Projects: 30%

~~Chapter Tests: 50% (each worth the same weight)~~

~~Cumulative Final Exam: 20%~~

Chapter 1 and 2 Test: 13%

Chapter 3 Test (Includes some material from previous test): 16%

Chapter 4 and 6A Test (Includes some material from previous two tests): 19%

Chapter 6B Test (Includes some material from previous three tests): 22%

(The Chapter 6B Test will be during final exam week and will cover the entire semester; therefore, there is no "Final Exam")

Course Grading Scale:

End-of-term averages will be rounded to the nearest percent. If your rounded weighted average is...

...90 and above, you've earned an A

...80 to 89, you've earned a B

...70 to 79, you've earned a C

...60 to 69, you've earned a D

...0 to 59, you've earned an F



Academic Coaching for Excellence (ACE) Program:

This course is part of the Academic Coaching for Excellence (ACE) program and is supported by a classroom and academic coach. It will require one additional hour each week to attend a course workshop.



Am I the Right Instructor for You?:

I hold my students to high standards. If you do not accept all of the following, then I recommend you drop this class and select another one:

- I expect you to be in class, on time, every day, for the entire class period.
- I expect you to complete all your homework with a score of 95%-100%.
- I expect you to start your work early and ask for help when you need it.
- We will not review before chapter tests. Work with a coach or study group to review.
- My tests are not easy, but they're fair. The study materials will help you prepare.
- I do not "give" points at the end of the semester. You must earn your course grade.
- Our class sessions last 75 minutes. Therefore, you will have 75 minutes to complete each in-class chapter test. You will have more time for the final exam.
- I turn off "Help Me Solve This" and "View an Example" in MyMathLab because they prevent students from developing an essential math skill: the ability to look at a problem and determine what steps should be used to solve it and why. In addition, "Help Me Solve This" and "View an Example" often use methods that are ~~often~~ different than those presented in class, which is confusing to many students and therefore harmful.
- I do not present content from previous math classes during class time; I do present that content outside of class time during extra credit sessions.
- I present content at a speed needed to finish all essential course concepts by the end of the semester. If you're new to college, please understand that college goes about 4.5 times faster than high school.



Anticipated Workload:

I expect you to spend at least 8 hours each week outside of class learning content for this class. Use this information to find the right balance between school, work, family, and fun time. If you do not think you can handle the time that this class requires, you should speak to an academic advisor about taking fewer classes.



Attendance Policy:

Your attendance in class is mandatory. You will log in to the urHere computer each class day. You start the semester with 8 attendance points. Each day you are absent, the computer will subtract 2 attendance points. Each day you are late, the computer will subtract 1 attendance point. Each day you leave early, the computer will subtract 1 attendance point. If your number of attendance points ever reaches zero, I reserve the right to withdraw you from the class. It is your responsibility to find out about announcements and changes, if any, if you are absent, arrive late, or leave early.



Pencasts:

Throughout the semester, each unique lecture will be recorded using a Livescribe "smart pen" and uploaded to my website as a "pencast." These pencasts are very powerful. If you need to experience or re-experience something that was done in class, you can jump to that part of the lecture and see/hear it. You can even get back lost attendance points by following the instructions on my website and watching the relevant pencast.



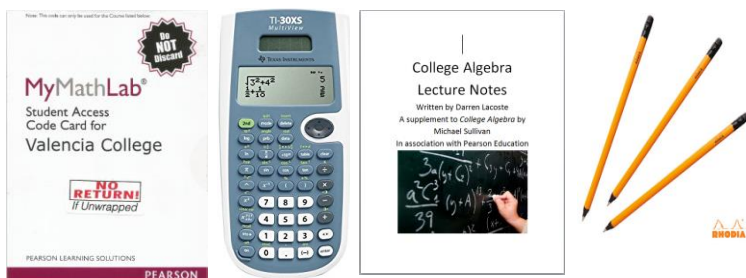
Required Materials:

MyMathLab Code for Online Homework: We will be using software called MyMathLab. An access code (or a credit card or PayPal payment) is required to access the software. The software includes an e-book (the electronic version of the textbook listed below). See the separate “Student Registration Handout” for detailed connection information.

Scientific Calculator: A scientific calculator that does not perform symbolic algebra is required. (A calculator with “CAS” in the name is not allowed. A graphing calculator is not allowed.) The TI-30XS **Multiview** is recommended because of its ability to create structures for fractions, radicals and the like (called Math Type). If you are receiving financial aid, it may be possible to utilize some of your funds to purchase your calculator. Check with the financial aid office for more information. You can borrow a scientific calculator from the Math Center (Room 7-241) until you purchase your own. Borrowed calculators are due back after five hours or at closing time, whichever comes first.

Lecture Notes: I will post my lecture notes inside MyMathLab. You must have a printed (recommended) or electronic copy with you during every class session.

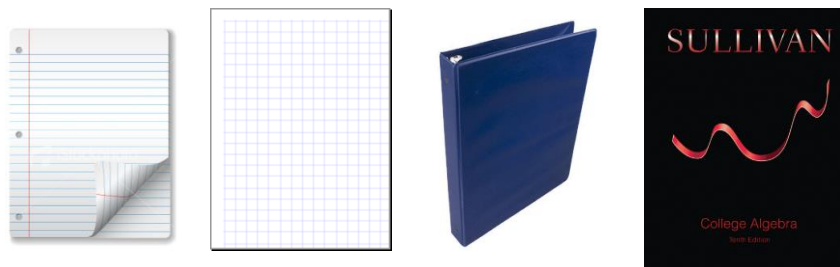
Supplies: Pencils are required for tests. All other work must be completed in pencil or erasable pen.



Recommended Materials:

Supplies: Blank notebook paper and/or graph paper and a three-ring binder with tab sections (or its equivalent) are recommended.

Textbook: College Algebra (10th Edition), by Michael Sullivan (optional if you use the e-book)
ISBN-13: 978-0-321-97947-6



Forbidden Materials:

No pens are allowed (unless they are erasable pens).



Testing Policies:

- A test missed for any reason (good or bad) will be replaced using questions answered on the day of the final exam from the same sections. The percentage of those questions answered correctly will become the percent score on the missed exam.
- A test may be completed before the scheduled test date, or on the scheduled test date but at a different time and place, with prior approval. A test may not be taken after the scheduled test date. If you miss the last chapter test or the final exam, I reserve the right to assign you a final course grade of "I" (Incomplete).
- You must complete each in-class test within the time allotted during the class period.
- Once you have seen a test, you may not leave the room unless you submit that test and say that you are done. A test can be as long as two hours and fifteen minutes (for the final exam only). If you do not believe you can be in our classroom for that length of time, speak with me after class about making alternate arrangements.
- All materials in your work area during testing, including calculator electronic memory, are subject to my thorough and unannounced inspection.
- No class-related content may be stored in calculator memory for use during tests.
- Scores on all tests will be rounded to the nearest percent, half percent, or tenth of a percent (at my discretion).

Contacting Me Electronically:

Whenever you contact me electronically, always include your full name and your class days/start time. If you choose to email me, remember: the word "mail" is **not** part of my email address!

Online Assignments Due Dates:

Research shows that students who do math every day learn more and perform better than students that try to do a lot of math in one session. Therefore, the assignments in this class are spread out. Whenever we finish a section in class, the assignments associated with that section are due shortly thereafter. You are responsible for managing your assignments and their due dates.

Websites and Apps That "Do" Math

There exist websites and apps that "do" math problems for us. You should avoid using these websites and apps. Here are several reasons why...

- Using them on a quiz, test or exam is considered cheating, and can have profound negative consequences.
- They sometimes use methods that are different than those taught in class, and can therefore provide answers in the wrong format. (These answers are really obvious to instructors but are rarely obvious to students.)
- They provide answers and sometimes even steps, but no explanation on where they came from.
- They can provide wrong answers if they are not programmed correctly. (This actually happened to me.)
- Students who use them frequently may complete outside-of-class assignments more quickly, but learn much less. And on test days, those students often regret their actions.

So what should you use instead? Use help resources that can provide an explanation and/or guidance and therefore ensure that learning is happening, such as a one-on-one appointment with me. See the "Math Assistance Outside of the Classroom" section of this syllabus for several other great suggestions.

Math Assistance Outside of the Classroom:

- **I hold office hours** to work with students. I am interested in your success in this course. Please come ask questions regularly! You can even schedule an appointment to meet one-on-one!
- **Your classroom and academic coaches** hold multiple sessions each week to help you with class skills and concepts. You are required to spend one hour each week with a coach, but if you find that you need additional assistance, I recommend you spend as much time with your coaches as your schedule allows.
- **The LINE app** is a group chat that all students can and should connect to. In the app, you can chat with other students in class as well as upload pictures and videos of your math work so that you can receive help.
- **This class uses pencasts**, which are digital recordings of each class period. If you ever forget what was said or taught in class, or miss part or all of a class session, go to my website and listen to the pencast recording.
- **The West Campus Math Center** is in 7-240. There are two main areas here where you can receive help.
 - While you are in the **Tutoring Center**, you can receive one-on-one help with math concepts and problems.
 - Take advantage of **study rooms**, a place where your study group can meet to work on math concepts and problems.

The hours of the Math Center are listed on their website:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/learning-support/math/>

The secret word is district. It is important that you understand how you will receive help with math concepts and problems. The tutors have been trained to use techniques that help you become an independent learner. They have been instructed to guide you through the problem-solving process and utilize the materials you have available through your course. They may help you by asking open-ended questions, walking you through examples in your text, or (hopefully on rare occasions) using pencil and paper to show you how to solve a problem similar to one you are working on. Since their goal is to help you become an independent learner, they will let you do the work as much as possible. The learning process requires a regular investment of your time and patience is the key.

- **Smarthinking** is a tutoring service that is available for free over the Internet, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. From www.valenciacollege.edu, log into Atlas. Click the Courses tab. In the middle, click Tutoring (online). Follow the on-screen instructions. You may ignore/close the window about the Smarthinking app if you want to. Select Work with a tutor. From the list, select Drop-in Session and Math. Select Algebra.

Testing Center Information:

The Testing Center, located in 11-142, allows you to take exams early or outside the classroom (with prior instructor approval). You must arrive at least one hour before closing to take an exam there. The Testing Center's hours are listed on its website:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/learning-support/testing/hours.cfm>

No-Show Policy:

Students registered for this class who do not attend any class sessions between and including August 26, 2019 and September 3, 2019, and who do not contact me to notify me of their situation, will be withdrawn as a “no-show.”

Reopening MyMathLab Assignments:

Once MyMathLab due dates pass, the assignments close and lock. Any assignments missed for any reason (good or bad) can be unlocked. To do this, you must visit me in my office (during an appointment or during my open office hours) and bring one or more non-perishable cans of food for donation to the campus food pantry. For each can donated, I will reopen one assignment for one week. In place of donating a can, a student may accompany me to the pantry to receive a can instead. For the purposes of reopening assignments, a student may not receive food and donate food in the same semester.

Academic Honesty:

You are expected to do your own work on quizzes, tests and exams. Providing information to another student or receiving information from another student is considered cheating. Using a website/app that solves math problems for you is also considered cheating. I reserve the right to determine the appropriate penalties within Valencia College's academic honesty policies if you cheat.

Disorderly Classroom Conduct:

Disorderly conduct is behavior that is distracting to other students or the instructor, or that inhibits the learning experiences of other students. This includes texting/talking on the phone during class, using an electronic device (e.g. laptop computer, tablet) for non-class-related activities, arriving late/leaving early in a disruptive manner, monopolizing class discussions, using disrespectful language, etc. The first violation of this policy will result in a warning. A second violation will result in your being asked to leave the classroom. If you are ever asked to leave class, you may be permitted to return to future class meetings after speaking with me outside of class time. You may also be required to arrange a conference with another college official before attending class again. The hidden word is wonder.

Office for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Letter of Accommodations (LOA) from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with me, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. Contact information for the West Campus OSD is as follows:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/>

Withdrawal Policy:

Always seek advice from the instructor or from an academic adviser prior to withdrawing from any course, as it may affect any financial aid you may receive or have other negative consequences. If you decide to withdraw, per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), note that a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of November 1, 2019 (11:59 pm) will receive a grade of "W." A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy. A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy will receive a grade of "W." Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F." For a complete procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 (Volume 4, Policy 4 07 Academic...) please go to.:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm>

Valencia Student Core Competencies:

Valencia's Student Core Competencies are complex abilities that are essential to lifelong success. This course will help you develop and demonstrate the abilities to (1) **think** clearly, critically, and creatively; (2) **communicate** with others verbally and in written form; (3) make reasoned **value** judgments and responsible commitments; and (4) **act** purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly. Due to the nature of these global competencies, many math problems and activities will be presented in the context of an application. These applications will require students to select appropriate information from the problem and communicate effectively how to arrive at an appropriate solution for the problem.

Expected Student Campus Conduct:

Valencia College is not only dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling, you assumed the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed to leave the class; violation of any classroom rules or violation of Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. You can find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

Student Ombudsman

If you feel you have been mistreated by someone who works for Valencia College, and you don't know of any other way to resolve your situation, consider speaking to a student ombudsman. A student ombudsman provides a safe and comfortable environment for students to discuss complaints, concerns, or problems privately. When appropriate, the office will initiate an informal intervention with the goal of facilitating a resolution that is acceptable to all parties involved. The ombudsman acts as an independent, impartial resource. If a matter cannot be resolved through this office, a referral will be made. When appropriate, the office can make recommendations regarding policy review and change. More information is available here:

<https://valenciacollege.edu/students/disputes/academic/ombudsman.cfm>

Life Help (BayCare)

BayCare Behavioral Health offers a wide range of outpatient services that can help individuals coping with behavioral health or chemical dependency issues. Counseling can help those who have struggled with emotional problems for years and those who find themselves in need of support to lead more productive and independent lives. Call the confidential toll-free number: (800) 878-5470. Sometimes life can be stressful. BayCare can help.

Trash Bins:

To minimize the production of plastic trash bags, many trash bins at Valencia College have been moved outside of the classrooms. Please bring your trash to those bins as you exit the class.

Disclaimer:

The password is land. Changes to this course and syllabus may be made at any time, at my discretion. Should this occur, I will notify you of the changes.