MAC 1105C: Corequisite College Algebra

Spring 2020

NOTE: This syllabus has been revised (indicated in red) to account for the conversion to online learning.

Contact Information	
Professor:	Darren Lacoste
Office:	~~Building 4, Room 232~~ Zoom Conference and/or the LINE app
Office Hours:	See website (link below)
Phone:	407.582.1087
E-Mail:	dlacoste@valenciacollege.edu
Website:	http://frontdoor.valenciacollege.edu/?dlacoste

Class Days and Times (Circle Yours)	
CRN 22385:	~~Class Mondays, Wednesdays 3:00p – 5:15p in 9-123~~ online class
CRN 22067:	~~Class Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:00p – 2:15p in 9-123~~ online class

Catalog Course Description:

MAC 1105C Corequisite College Algebra
Prerequisite: None

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:

Chapter R: Factoring and Rational Expressions
Chapter 1:   Radical/Absolute Value Equations, Linear/Compound/Absolute Value Inequalities
Chapter 2:   Distance/Midpoint Formulas, Circles, Functions, Average Rate of Change, Lines, Library of Functions, Transformations, Properties of Functions, Piecewise-Defined Functions, Combining and Composing Functions
Chapter 3:   Quadratics, Polynomial Functions, Properties/Graphs of Rational Functions, Variation
Chapter 4:   Inverse, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions
Chapter 5:   Systems of: Linear Equations in Two Variables, Nonlinear Equations in Two Variables, and Inequalities in Two Variables

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

Course Grading Percentages:
ALEKS Work (Pie Progress, Time Goals, Objectives, Scheduled Knowledge Checks): 20%
Pre-Spring Break ACE Workshops with Jacob: 5%
Exams: ~~80%~~ 75%

◈ Anticipated Workload:
Because this is a corequisite class, you are "getting through" two or more math classes in a single semester. **Therefore, this class will require a significant investment of your time. You are expected to follow the Rule of 3: Work three (or more) days a week in ALEKS, for three (or more) hours each day, in a room on campus with one of three different math experts.** That means you need to arrange your schedule this semester so that you can spend nine hours (or more) each week on campus working with a math expert. Working with a math expert cannot be done at home.

◈ Pencasts (for classes before the conversion to online):
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.

Lecture Videos
Now that the class has been converted to online, instead of attending class in person, you will watch lecture videos instead. I recommend you watch the videos on the same days that you would have attended class. The videos and watch schedule are on my website.

◈ Attendance Policy (for classes before the conversion to online):
Your attendance in class is mandatory. You will log in to the urHere computer each class day. If you ever miss class, you are expected to listen to the pencast recording of the class session(s) you missed **before** returning to class. If you miss three or more consecutive class sessions, and you do not notify me of your situation, I reserve the right to withdraw you from the class.

Attendance Policy (for after the conversion to online)
Since I no longer have the ability to withdraw students, there is no attendance policy.

◈ Five-Minute Break (for classes before the conversion to online):
Although the schedule for this class shows a 50 minute block of class time, then a 10-minute gap, then a 75-minute block of class time, we will not follow that structure. Instead, each class day will be 2 hours and 15 minutes with a five-minute break at a convenient time somewhere in the middle.

◈ Online Assignments Due Dates:
Generally speaking, there will be three assignments due each week in ALEKS. The assignments will be spread out so that they are due every two to three days.

◈ 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!

◈ Websites and Apps That "Do" Math

There exist websites and apps that "do" math problems for us. Do not use them. 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.
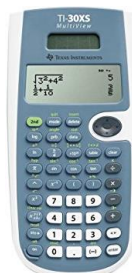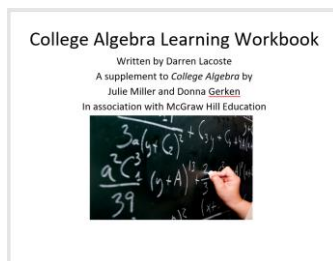
◈ Required Materials:

ALEKS Code for Online Homework: We will be using software called ALEKS. An access code is required to access the software. The software includes an e-book (the electronic version of the textbook listed below). We will connect to ALEKS during the first week of class using two-week free access, but you will need to pay for permanent access before the free access expires. Access codes are available in the Valencia Bookstore or online at aleks.com. Online payments require a credit or debit card.

Learning Workbook: I will send you the class learning workbook through Canvas. You must have a printed or electronic copy with you during every class session. (A printed copy is strongly recommended.)
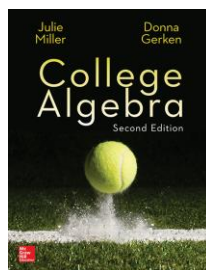
Scientific Calculator: A scientific calculator that does not perform symbolic algebra is required. (A calculator with "CAS" in the name is not allowed. A graphing calculator is not allowed.) The TI-30XS *Multiview* is recommended because of its ability to create structures for fractions, radicals and 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.

◈ 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 (2nd Edition), by Julie Miller and Donna Gerken (optional if you use the e-book) ISBN-13: 978–0–07–783634–4

◈ **Forbidden Materials:**

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

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Testing Center Information (for tests taken before the conversion to online):

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

Testing Policies (for tests taken before the conversion to online):

- 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).
- If you miss an exam during the last instruction week of the semester or final exam week, I reserve the right to assign you a final course grade of "I" (Incomplete).

Testing Policies (for tests taken after the conversion to online):

Exam 3 will be considered "open book." This means you are allowed to use any source as a reference, as long as that source does not solve the problem for you. Let's list several examples. During the test, you can use your learning workbook, your notes, even an Internet video. However, the test will be timed, so you will still need to know how to solve the problems without too much help or else you won't finish. What you may NOT do is to use any website or app that solves the problem for you. This is still considered cheating. I am going to trust you to not cheat. I am going to trust that you understand it is important to truly learn the math because, someday, in a future math class, we will once again be in a face-to-face environment, and you'll need those skills.

Let's discuss the process. On test day, log into ALEKS. The exam will become available at 5:00am and remain available until 11:59pm. You need to have several pencils, an eraser, lots of paper, and a calculator. Open the test; the time clock will start. You will have 90 minutes to complete the 20 questions. The test is called "Exam 3 (From Home)". You are required to write your solution to all problems on paper. I will be reviewing your work, so it needs to be neat and readable. At the top of

the page, write your name and Exam 3. Proceed neatly from the top of the page to the bottom. Write horizontally. Number the problems as you go so I can see your work on each problem. Number the pages so I know what order they go in. Show all work. If you can solve a problem "in your head" (without writing anything), then you don't have to write anything for that problem number. Once you are done with the exam, you will have 15 minutes to take a picture of each page you wrote on and send it to me, in page order, in a private chat window in LINE. I will review your work. As long as you follow all of these instructions, and your work looks completely appropriate, you are done. But if you do not follow all instructions and/or your work is suspicious, your score will be deleted and I will contact you about taking the test again. You will study for the exam in the same way as for previous exams. The practice problems are on my website; I've provided three versions, as always.

If students elect to retake an exam from earlier in the semester (Exam 1 or Exam 2), they must follow the same rules stated above.

Academic Honesty:

You are expected to do your own work on knowledge checks, 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.

Withdrawal Policy (for classes before the conversion to online):

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 March 20, 2020 (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

Withdrawal Policy (for classes after the conversion to online):

You have until Friday April the 17th to decide if your grade in this class will be...
- A traditional A/B/C/D/F grade, or
- A satisfactory plus (S+), a satisfactory minus (S-), or an Unsatisfactory (U), or
- A retake (R20) that will allow you to take the class again this upcoming summer semester.

As with all big decisions, the details matter. I strongly encourage you to read all information presented here:
https://valenciacollege.edu/students/grade-options/

Disorderly Classroom Conduct:

Disorderly conduct is behavior that is distracting to other students <u>or the instructor</u>, 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 <u>may</u> 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.

Math Assistance Outside of the Classroom (for classes before the conversion to online):

- **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!
- **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 7-241. There are several areas here where you can receive help.
  - While you are in the **Hands-On Math** learning area, you can receive one-on-one help with math concepts and problems using a hands-on learning approach. This special area utilizes tools and manipulatives to help you learn math.
  - While you are in **Math Connections**, you can receive one-on-one help with math concepts and problems. This area is only for certain math classes, and this class is one of them!
  - While you are in the **Open Lab**, you can receive help with math concepts and problems from one of the tutors in that area.
  - 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/

  http://valenciacollege.edu/learning-support/math/hours.cfm

  It is important that you understand <u>how</u> 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.

Math Assistance (for classes after the conversion to online):

- **I hold virtual office hours** in a Zoom conference 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!
- **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. In all, there are there are five math experts that will be available to help you: myself, Courtney, Carlos, Krystal and Mhelith.

No-Show Policy:

Students registered for this class who do not attend any class sessions between and including January 6, 2020 and January 13, 2020, and who do not contact me to notify me of their situation, will be withdrawn as a "no-show."

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/

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:

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.