

MAT 1033C: Intermediate Algebra

Fall 2017

Contact Information	
Professor:	Darren Lacoste
Office:	Building 4, Room 232
Student Engagement 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 10327:	Class Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 – 11:15a in 9-123
CRN 13293:	Class Tuesday, Thursday 2:30 – 3:45p in 9-123

Catalog Course Description:

MAT 1033C Intermediate Algebra

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in MAT 0022C or MAT 0028C or MAT 0055 or MAT 0056 or appropriate score on an approved assessment.

This course presents algebraic skills for MAC 1105. Topics include linear equations and inequalities in two variables and their graphs, systems of linear equations and inequalities, introductions to functions, factoring, algebraic functions, rational equations, radical and rational exponents, complex numbers, quadratic equations, scientific notation, applications of the above topics and the communication of mathematics. Applications emphasizing connections with disciplines and the real world will be included. This course carries general elective credit but does not satisfy either Gordon Rule or general education requirements. (Special Fee: \$59.00)

Book Material (In Order Covered):

- Chapter 2: Equations, Inequalities, and Problem Solving
- Chapter 3: Graphs and Functions
- Chapter 5: Exponents and Factoring
- Chapter 6: Rational Expressions
- Chapter 7: Rational Exponents, Radicals, and Complex Numbers
- Chapter 8: Quadratic Equations and Functions
- Chapter 4: Systems of Equations

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. The Testing Center's hours are listed on its website:

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



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 course textbook).

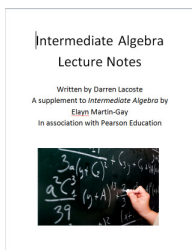
Graphing Calculator: A graphing calculator that does not perform symbolic algebra is required. (A calculator with “CAS” in the name is not allowed.) The TI-84 Plus is used for in-class demonstrations and is particularly recommended. If you are receiving financial aid, it may be possible to utilize some of your funds to purchase your calculator. Check with the financial aid office for more information. You can borrow a TI-84 Plus 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. (See “Testing Policies” if you are considering using a calculator other than the TI-84 Plus.)

Supplies: Several pencils with erasers, blank notebook paper, and a three-ring binder with tab sections (or its equivalent) are required. All work must be completed in pencil, except as listed below. In addition, you’ll want earbuds/headphones to hear the videos in your homework.



Strongly Recommended Materials:

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



Forbidden Materials:

No pens are allowed (except in class notes).



Math Assistance Outside of the Classroom:

- **I hold student engagement hours** to meet with students. I am interested in your success in this course. Please come ask questions regularly!
- **The West Campus Math Center** is in 7-240. There are several different areas here where you can receive help.
 - While you are in the **computer lab**, raise a red flag to receive help with math concepts and problems.
 - 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 **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.
 - 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 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. Interact with a tutor in real time!



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, I will subtract 2 from that number. Each day you are late, I will subtract 1 from that number. Each day you leave early, I will subtract 1 from that number. If the number 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.

Course Grading Percentages:

Lab Attendance, Self-Checks and Quizzes: 15%

Online Homework: 15%

Progress Tests: 50%

Cumulative Final Exam: 20%

Course Grading Scale:

A: 90.0% and above

B: 80.0-89.9%

C: 70.0-79.9%

D: 60.0-69.9%

F: 0.0-59.9%

Scores on all tests will be rounded to the nearest percent or half percent. End-of-term averages will be rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

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.

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!

The Weekly “Do This” Email:

Each week, usually on Friday, I will send you a “Do This” email, informing you of the tasks you must complete for the next week and any relevant class announcements. Make it part of your weekly routine to look for these emails every Friday.

Anticipated Workload:

Use the chart below to determine the number of hours you’ll need to put into this class every week:

Percent of Developmental Math Topics Remembered/Learned Correctly	Approximate number of hours each week (outside of class) needed to learn course material.
90% - 100%	6 hours
80% - 89%	8 hours
70% - 79%	11 hours
Less than 70%	14 hours or more

I expect you to spend at least 6 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.

Online Homework Due Dates:

Most of the assignments in this class are inside MyMathLab, and the due dates for each one are listed there. You are responsible for managing your assignments and their due dates. Typically, whenever we finish a section, the associated homework is due a few days later according to the due dates in MyMathLab. If we fall behind in class, those due dates will be extended accordingly.

Testing Policies:

- A test missed for any reason (good or bad) will be replaced using questions on 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 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 (completed). A test can be as long as two-and-a-half hours.
- All materials in your work area during testing, including calculator electronic memory, are subject to my thorough and unannounced inspection.
- You are NOT permitted to use any calculator other than the TI-84 Plus until you contact me during my student engagement hours and show me that you know how to clear its memory.
- 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 or half percent.

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 contact me during my student engagement hours. Each student gets one "freebie" which can be used to unlock up to three assignments. (They must all be unlocked at the same time.)

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>

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. You may also be required to arrange a conference with another college official before attending class again.

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. I reserve the right to determine the appropriate penalties within Valencia College's academic honesty policies if you are observed cheating.

No-Show Policy:

Students registered for this class who do not attend any class sessions between and including August 28, 2017 and September 5, 2017, and who do not contact me to notify me of their situation, will be withdrawn as a "no-show."

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 10, 2017 (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.

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/>

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.

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 in order to lead more productive and independent lives. Call the confidential toll free number: (800) 878-5470. Sometimes life can be stressful. BayCare can help.

NSF Grant Addendum

I am continually exploring new possibilities that might enhance your learning experience in this course. Throughout the course, there will be four activities worth a small part of your grade. I am collaborating with other math professors at Valencia as well as researchers from the University of Virginia in this research project to improve student learning in our front door courses. These activities are designed to help us understand your attitudes in an effort to assist us in improving future classes for you and other students.



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.



Internet Websites That “Do” Math

We live in a world full of technological wonders, including websites that “do” math problems for us. But be warned! There are a number of pitfalls associated with using such sites. For example...

- Such sites often use methods that are different than those taught in class, and can therefore provide answers in the wrong format.
- Such sites can provide wrong answers if they are not programmed correctly.
- Students who use such sites frequently may complete outside-of-class assignments more quickly, but learn much less. And on test days, those students often regret their use of such sites.
- Students who use such sites frequently can become “trapped” by them. They use them so much that they advance to future math classes without learning, and later find that not all math topics can be done by a website. They fail those classes and do not have the ability to retake earlier classes because they “passed” them already.



“Three Before Me”

Part of my job as an educator is to create self-sufficiency in my students. Therefore, I will be using a philosophy called “Three Before Me” when interacting with you. Here’s what that means...

- Before you ask me a non-math-related question, ask three other students from our class that question. If you still do not know the answer, then you may ask me.
- Before you ask me where to find something, look in three places for it. If you still cannot find it, then you may ask me.
- When you ask me a question, my first response will often be “What three places did you look for that already?” or “What three students did you ask about that?”. Be prepared for these responses.

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.