

Irvine Valley College
Math 253 – Intermediate Algebra (Online)
Ticket #64270, Spring 2009

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Prof. Richard Zucker

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF MATH 253

This course is the continuation of elementary algebra and is intended to prepare students for subsequent math classes. It includes the study of the real number system, open sentences in one variable, polynomials, factoring, systems of linear equations, rational numbers, and functions. The course also covers irrational and complex numbers, quadratic equations and functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and quadratic relations and systems.

PREREQUISITE

The prerequisite for Math 253 is a grade of C or better in Math 251 (Elementary Algebra) or placement into Math 253 based on the results of the Mathematics Assessment Test. I would add the following prerequisite for any online course: lots of self-discipline, lots of self-motivation and lots and lots of time!

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO TAKE A MATH COURSE ONLINE?

In many respects, learning by computer and learning in a traditional classroom are similar. In both environments you will study the textbook, listen to lectures, do homework and take tests. Both kinds of courses require an average commitment of roughly 15 hours per week, although in a traditional course one-third of that time is spent in a classroom. Unlike a traditional course, an online course allows you to:

- Access your textbook in an electronic format to be read onscreen or printed out.
- Watch video lessons for every section of the textbook.
- Work homework exercises that interact with you.
- Take tests and get immediate results.
- Communicate electronically with your classmates and your instructor.

Not all work in an online course is done on a computer. You are expected to use pencil and paper and a calculator to solve homework exercises and test questions. Furthermore, the midterm exam and final exam are conducted in person in a classroom at Irvine Valley College.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Your computer must meet the minimum system requirements for this course.

- **Operating System:** Windows XP, Windows Vista, Macintosh OS 10.4 or 10.5
- **Web browser:** Internet Explorer 6.0/7.0, Firefox 2.0, Safari 2.0 (3.1 with OS 10.5)
- **Internet connection:** A high-speed Internet connection is required.

TEXTBOOK AND SOFTWARE

The textbook for the course is Elementary and Intermediate Algebra for College Students, 3rd ed., by Allen R. Angel. It is published by Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008. The ISBN is 0-13-233722-3. You do NOT need to purchase the physical textbook, as it is completely available online. However, I recommend that you get a copy of the textbook if money is not an object. There are advantages to having both the physical and electronic textbook.

The software you will use is a web application called *MyMathLab* that runs inside of a course management website called CourseCompass. First-time users need to purchase an access code in order to use CourseCompass and *MyMathLab*. The access code may be purchased at the college bookstore, but it is less expensive to buy it online (see below).

IF YOU ARE A NEW COURSECOMPASS USER, PLEASE READ GETTING STARTED FOR THE FIRST TIME BELOW.

IF YOU PREVIOUSLY TOOK AN ONLINE COURSE USING THE SAME TEXTBOOK, YOU DO NOT NEED TO PURCHASE A NEW ACCESS CODE. SKIP DOWN TO ENROLLING IN THIS COURSE IF YOU ARE A FORMER COURSECOMPASS USER.

GETTING STARTED FOR THE FIRST TIME

The three steps below should be sufficient to get you up and running. However, if you need help I strongly recommend that you read the booklet entitled **Getting Started with MyMathLab & CourseCompass**. It is available online at www.mymathlab.com/mml_stu.pdf. If you need more help, you can call Pearson Education Customer Technical Support at 1-800-677-6337. Their hours are Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Pacific Time). You may also find answers online at <http://247.pearsoned.com>.

STEP 1: First you must register with Pearson Education. Go to <http://www.coursecompass.com>. Click Register under Students. Here are the items you need in order to register:

- a. **A Valid Email Address.**
- b. **The Course ID.** The Course ID is **ZUCKER83825**.
- c. **A Student Access Code.** If you bought the *MyMathLab Starter Kit* at the college bookstore, then the Access Code is in the kit. If you didn't get the access code at the bookstore, you may purchase access online using a credit card.

Complete the registration process (it takes about five minutes), and then go on to STEP 2.

STEP 2: Go to <http://www.coursecompass.com>. Click LOG IN. Enter the login name and password you picked when you registered. After you have logged in click on Math 253 Spring 2009 (Ticket #64270).

STEP 3: Now you must install the plug-ins. This is essential for the proper operation of the software. Click on the Installation Wizard button at the lower left of the screen. The wizard will guide you through the installation of the plug-ins. You must install the plug-ins on every computer you will be using. Once the plug-ins are installed they do not need to be installed again.

ENROLLING IN THIS COURSE IF YOU ARE A FORMER COURSECOMPASS USER.

If you previously paid for access to CourseCompass using the same textbook (Angel, Elementary and Intermediate Algebra, 3rd ed.), then you do not have to pay again. Follow these directions:

STEP 1: Go to <http://www.coursecompass.com>. Click LOG IN.

STEP 2: On the Log In page, do not log in. Instead, click the View your Account Summary link below the log-in boxes.

STEP 3: On the Account Summary page, enter your existing username and password in the boxes. Then click Log In.

STEP 4: On the page listing your courses, click Enroll in a Course. When prompted, enter the course ID of this course, which is ZUCKER83825. You are now enrolled in your new course.

STEP 5: Go to <http://www.coursecompass.com>. Click LOG IN. Enter your username and password. After you have logged in click on Math 253 Spring 2009 (Ticket #64270). Be sure to run the Installation Wizard if you are using a different computer than the one you previously used.

IMPORTANT: If you are not registered in CourseCompass by midnight, Saturday, January 17, I will drop you from the class.

Please continue to Page 4.

HOW THIS COURSE IS ORGANIZED

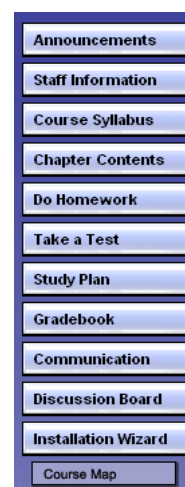
This course can be thought of as having three parts:

- A. Learning Algebra
- B. Doing Homework
- C. Taking Tests

Let's look at how you will use the computer for each of these three parts.

A. Learning Algebra

You will learn algebra by watching videos and reading the textbook. After you have logged in to CourseCompass, notice the buttons at the left of the screen (we'll call this the "main menu", see right). Click the button called Chapter Contents. Scroll down a little and you will see the chapter titles. Click on the chapter title that you want to study. Then click on the section number. At the top of the list you will see "Video Lecture." Begin each new section by watching the video lesson. When you have finished watching the video, click on multimedia textbook section. Read the section completely, and take the time to try out the video clips and practice problems that you will see along the way.



B. Doing Homework

On the CourseCompass main menu click on the button called Do Homework. You should see a list of twelve assignments covering Chapters 7 through 14. When you click on an assignment and then click on a particular question, you will see a screen that looks like this:

The screenshot shows the MyMathLab homework interface. At the top, it says "MyMathLab" and "Homework: Ch. 7 Homework Part 1 (Sec 7.1 to 7.4)". Below that, there are navigation buttons for exercises 1 through 10, with exercise 10 selected. The current exercise is "Exercise 7.1.36". The exercise score is "0 of 1 pt" and the assignment score is "0% (0 of 93 pts)". The exercise is "0 of 93 complete". The main content area shows the instruction "Simplify." and the expression $\frac{b-7}{b^2-9b+14}$. Below this, there is a text input field with the expression $\frac{b-7}{b^2-9b+14} = \square$. On the left side, there is a calculator interface with buttons for fractions, exponents, radicals, and a "More" button. On the right side, there are several buttons: "Help Me Solve This", "View an Example", "Textbook", "Video", "Ask My Instructor", and "Print".

The buttons at the right of the screen make it possible to get computerized help, view an example, watch a video (not always available), read the textbook and even ask your instructor for help. The buttons at the left of the screen allow you to enter mathematical expressions such as fractions, exponents and radicals.

You are required to successfully complete at least 25% of the problems in each homework assignment. You cannot take the chapter test until you have done at least 25% of the homework for that chapter. The table that follows shows you how the questions in the homework assignments correspond to the sections in each chapter.

<p><u>Ch 7 Homework Part 1 (Sec 7.1 to 7.4)</u> Questions 1-20 cover Section 7.1 Questions 21-44 cover Section 7.2 Questions 45-73 cover Section 7.3 Questions 74-93 cover Section 7.4</p> <p><u>Ch 7 Homework Part 2 (Sec 7.5 to 7.8)</u> Questions 1-12 cover Section 7.5 Questions 13-32 cover Section 7.6 Questions 33-44 cover Section 7.7 Questions 45-60 cover Section 7.8 Questions 61-94 cover Chapter Review</p> <p><u>Ch 8 Homework (Sec 8.1 to 8.5)</u> Questions 1-19 cover Section 8.1 Questions 20-47 cover Section 8.2 Questions 48-59 cover Section 8.3 Questions 60-79 cover Section 8.4 Questions 80-99 cover Section 8.5 Questions 100-118 cover Chapter Review</p> <p><u>Ch 9 Homework (Sec 9.1 to 9.7)</u> Questions 1-20 cover Section 9.1 Questions 21-32 cover Section 9.2 Questions 33-46 cover Section 9.3 Questions 47-58 cover Section 9.4 Questions 59-74 cover Section 9.5 Questions 75-86 cover Section 9.6 Questions 87-101 cover Section 9.7 Questions 102-129 cover Chapter Review</p> <p><u>Ch 10 Homework (Sec 10.1 to 10.3)</u> Questions 1-29 cover Section 10.1 Questions 30-57 cover Section 10.2 Questions 58-79 cover Section 10.3 Questions 80-94 cover Chapter Review</p> <p><u>Ch 11 Homework Part 1 (Sec 11.1 to 11.4)</u> Questions 1-31 cover Section 11.1 Questions 32-66 cover Section 11.2 Questions 67-91 cover Section 11.3 Questions 92-119 cover Section 11.4</p>	<p><u>Ch 11 Homework Part 2 (Sec 11.5 to 11.7)</u> Questions 1-36 cover Section 11.5 Questions 37-67 cover Section 11.6 Questions 68-97 cover Section 11.7 Questions 98-144 cover Chapter Review</p> <p><u>Ch 12 Homework Part 1 (Sec 12.1 to 12.3)</u> Questions 1-19 cover Section 12.1 Questions 20-38 cover Section 12.2 Questions 39-49 cover Section 12.3</p> <p><u>Ch 12 Homework Part 2 (Sec 12.4 to 12.6)</u> Questions 1-24 cover Section 12.4 Questions 25-46 cover Section 12.5 Questions 47-65 cover Section 12.6 Questions 66-103 cover Chapter Review</p> <p><u>Ch 13 Homework Part 1 (Sec 13.1 to 13.4)</u> Questions 1-18 cover Section 13.1 Questions 19-26 cover Section 13.2 Questions 27-50 cover Section 13.3 Questions 51-65 cover Section 13.4</p> <p><u>Ch 13 Homework Part 2 (Sec 13.5 to 13.7)</u> Questions 1-19 cover Section 13.5 Questions 20-36 cover Section 13.6 Questions 37-54 cover Section 13.7 Questions 55-92 cover Chapter Review</p> <p><u>Ch 14 Homework (Sec 14.1 to 14.4)</u> Questions 1-23 cover Section 14.1 Questions 24-32 cover Section 14.2 Questions 33-42 cover Section 14.3 Questions 43-52 cover Section 14.4 Questions 53-78 cover Chapter Review</p> <p>There are 1,178 homework questions in total. You must successfully complete at least 25% of them. However, the more questions you complete the more points you will earn toward your course grade.</p>
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C. Taking Tests

After you have studied the chapter and worked the assigned homework questions, it is time to take the chapter test. Click on Take a Test on the CourseCompass main menu. Each chapter has a sample chapter test and a chapter test. You may take the sample chapter test at any time and as often as you like. You may take the chapter test only once and only after you have completed at least 25% of the homework assignment for that chapter. There are eight chapter tests. You have a maximum of two hours to complete each test, but most tests will take much less time than that.

Every time you take a sample chapter test, *MyMathLab* builds a study plan for you based on your results. The study plan shows you which sections you have mastered and which you should go back and study. To access your study plan, click on Study Plan from the CourseCompass main menu.

This is not a “self-paced” course. The chapter tests have deadlines. If you do not take a chapter test by the deadline, your score is 0. You may always work ahead of the schedule, but do not fall behind!!! The monthly calendar at the end of this syllabus shows all the test deadlines and other important dates. Note that all tests deadlines are on Sundays at 11:59 p.m.

In addition to the eight chapter tests which you will take online you will also have two on-campus exams: the midterm and the final. **Be sure to bring a Photo ID on those days.** Calculators are permitted on all exams. I recommend that you buy an inexpensive scientific calculator (\$10-\$20). You may use a graphing calculator if you wish (such as the TI-84, around \$100), but you may not use a “computer algebra system” calculator such as the TI-89 or the TI Voyage, nor may you use cell phone calculators or PDAs.

CALCULATING YOUR COURSE GRADE

Your course grade is based on the number of homework questions you successfully complete and on your performance on the chapter tests, midterm and final exam. Here is the breakdown:

Homework*	= 100 pts	900 – 1000 pts	= A
Chapter Tests	= 300 pts	800 – 899 pts	= B
Midterm	= 300 pts	700 – 799 pts	= C
Final Exam	= 300 pts	600 – 699 pts	= D
-----		0 – 599 pts	= F
	1000 pts		

*Note regarding homework: You will earn full credit in the homework category if you successfully complete all of the assigned questions. There are 1,178 of them. Doing fewer than 1,178 questions lowers your homework score proportionately. Remember that you must do at least 25% of the assigned problems as a prerequisite to taking the chapter tests. Therefore if you do not miss any chapter tests, you will earn at least 25 points in the homework category.

STAYING IN COMMUNICATION

On Sunday morning, January 18, I will email all students who have registered in CourseCompass. Watch for my email, and please reply when you get it. Then I will know we are in communication. Remember,

if you are not registered in CourseCompass by midnight, Saturday, January 17, I will drop you from the class.

Naturally, you are encouraged to email me with your questions, comments and concerns. You can send email messages from within *MyMathLab* by clicking on the Communication button, or you may just use regular email. Since I get dozens of email messages every day, please include the word “online” and your name somewhere in the subject field so I can filter your messages into a folder for your class. For example: “Subject: Question about Math 253 online course from George Jetson.”

THE DISCUSSION BOARD

You will notice that one of the buttons at the left of the CourseCompass screen is Discussion Board. The discussion board is a great place to ask your questions, especially if you think others may benefit from the answer. I will check the discussion board frequently and leave my thoughtful replies. I recommend that you check the discussion board often, even if you are having no particular problems. You might be able to help someone!

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU NEED HELP?

- Email me, telephone me or visit me.
- For technical help with *MyMathLab* or CourseCompass see below.
- Use the Math Tutorial Center. The Math Tutorial Center is located in room B117. The Center offers FREE drop-in tutoring in all math classes. Enroll in TU 301, ticket number 64585, 65650, or 65655 to be able to use the Center. TU 301 is a zero unit class so it is free. You can enroll through MySite, but if you need an Add Permit Code, go to the Center to get one. The Math Tutorial Center is open Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon.
- Use the Discussion Board in CourseCompass so that you may ask for help and give help when you are able.
- Find an on-campus Math 253 class and ask the instructor for permission to sit in.
- Consider hiring a private tutor. I can provide some names and telephone numbers.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Support for CourseCompass and *MyMathLab* is offered through live online chat, email, and by telephone.

Live chat support is available at <http://247xl.custhelp.com/>. Click Chat.

Live chat hours are: Monday through Thursday, 6 am to 7 pm
Fridays, 6 am to 2 pm
Sundays, 2 pm to 7 pm (All times are Pacific Time)

Email support is available at <http://247xl.custhelp.com/>. Click Ask a Question.

Telephone support is available **1-800-677-6337**.

Telephone hours are: Monday through Friday, 5am to 5pm and Sundays, 2pm to 9pm (Pacific Time)

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Orientation 5:00- 7:00 p.m. Room B402	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Drop with refund deadline	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chapter 7 Test Deadline 11:59 pm	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Chapter 8 Test Deadline 11:59 pm	16	17	18	19 Drop w/o W, Elect CR/NC deadlines	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chapter 9 Test Deadline 11:59 pm	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Chapter 10 Test Deadline 11:59 pm	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Midterm Exam 5:00-7:00 p.m. Room TBA	24	25	26	27	28
29 Chapter 11 Test Deadline 11:59 pm	30	31				

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 LAST DAY TO DROP DEADLINE	10	11
12 Chapter 12 Test Deadline 11:59 pm	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Chapter 13 Test Deadline 11:59 pm	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Chapter 14 Test Deadline 11:59 pm	18 Final Exam 5:00-7:00 p.m. Room TBA	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Congratulations on reading all the way to the end of the syllabus! As a reward, you have a chance to be excused from the mandatory orientation (Monday, January 12, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Room B402).

Follow the instructions below. The deadline is 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12. I will let you know by email if you are excused from the orientation. Of course you may come just for the fun of it!

1. Register in CourseCompass as described on pages 2 and 3 of this syllabus, and log into the course. Be sure to run the Installation Wizard when you log into the course for the first time.
2. Click on Chapter Contents and navigate your way to Section 12.2.
3. Watch the video lecture for Section 12.2. What is the first sentence the instructor says when the video begins?
4. Navigate to Section 8.2. Open the multimedia textbook section. Go to page 484. What is the one sentence alternate definition of a function?
5. Click on Do Homework. Click on Ch. 9 Homework and select question 91. The instructions say, "Solve the system of equations using _____." What is the word that I have left out?
6. When you send your instructor an email message, what words should you include in the subject field? (Hint: See page 7 of this syllabus.)
7. Have you read and understood this entire syllabus?
8. Send me an email message with your answers to questions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 above. Your email must reach me no later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12. If your answers are all correct, I will send you a reply to let you know that you are excused from the orientation.