

Irvine Valley College  
Math 253 – Intermediate Algebra (Online)  
Ticket #60635, Summer 2010  
rev 6/25/10

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Prof. Richard Zucker  
Office: B267  
Office Hours: By appointment only  
Phone: 949-451-5259  
Email: [rzucker@ivc.edu](mailto:rzucker@ivc.edu)  
Website: <http://faculty.ivc.edu/rzucker>

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 353 (Elementary Algebra) or placement into Math 253 based on the results of the Mathematics Assessment Test. Additionally, online courses require **self-discipline, self-motivation, the ability to work independently, 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. In a standard 16-week semester both kinds of courses require an average commitment of roughly 15 hours per week. During a six-week summer session that translates into a commitment of 40 hours of studying per week! If you want to succeed in this course, clear your calendar and be ready to work very hard.

An online math course offers these enhancements over a traditional course:

- You can access your textbook in an electronic format to be read onscreen or printed out.
- You can watch video lessons for every section of the textbook.
- You can work homework exercises that interact with you.
- You take tests online and get immediate results.
- You can 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.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Most computer systems (PC and Mac) with Internet access will meet the minimum system requirements for this course. You may have compatibility issues if you use Internet Explorer 8. For more information please see [http://www.coursecompass.com/html/system\\_requirements.html](http://www.coursecompass.com/html/system_requirements.html).

## TEXTBOOK AND SOFTWARE

The textbook for the course is Elementary and Intermediate Algebra for College Students, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, as a matter of convenience I recommend that you buy a copy of the physical textbook if you can afford it.

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 new to CourseCompass, please read GETTING STARTED FOR THE FIRST TIME below.

If you have previously used CourseCompass, please skip down (next page) to ENROLLING IN THIS COURSE IF YOU ARE A FORMER COURSECOMPASS USER. In either case be sure you are enrolled in Math 253 (Ticket #60635) at Irvine Valley College before you register in CourseCompass.

### GETTING STARTED FOR THE FIRST TIME

The three steps below should get you up and running. However, if you need help I strongly recommend that you contact Pearson Customer Technical Support by email or by live chat. Their website is <http://247pearsoned.custhelp.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 XXXXXXXXXX. (Available to registered students only.)
- 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. Click on Math 253 2nd Summer Session 2010 (Ticket 60635).

STEP 3: The last step is to run a browser check. This will insure that Adobe® Flash® Player, Adobe® Reader®, and Apple® Quicktime® Player are installed and operating inside of your browser. Click on the Installation Wizard button at the lower left of the screen to begin the browser check. This must be done just once for each computer you plan to use. (Note: You do not need to install the Testgen® Plug-in.)

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

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 Edit your profile below the log-in boxes.

STEP 3: On the Pearson Account Profile page, enter your existing login name and password in the boxes. Then click Log In.

STEP 4: Scroll to the bottom of the page listing your previous courses and click Enroll in a Course. When prompted, enter the Course ID of this course, which is XXXXXXXXXX. (Available to registered students only.) If you previously paid for access to CourseCompass using the same textbook (Angel, Elementary and Intermediate Algebra, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), then you do not have to pay again.

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 2nd Summer Session 2010 (Ticket 60635). Be sure to run the Installation Wizard if you are using a different computer than the one you previously used.

**IMPORTANT: You must be registered in CourseCompass by midnight, Wednesday, July 7, or you will be dropped from this class.**

Please continue to Page 4.

## HOW THIS COURSE IS ORGANIZED

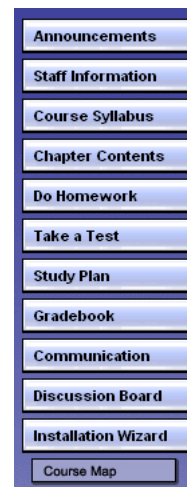
This course can be thought of as having three parts:

- 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:

Homework: Ch. 7 Homework Part 1 (Sec 7.1 to 7.4) Overview

Question 7.1.36

Exercise Score: 0 of 1 pt    Assignment Score: 0% (0 of 93 pts)    0 of 93 complete

Simplify.

$$\frac{b-2}{b^2-6b+8}$$

---

$$\frac{b-2}{b^2-6b+8} = \square$$

Help Me Solve This  
View an Example  
Textbook  
Video  
Print

The buttons at the right of the screen make it possible to get computerized help, view an example, read the textbook and watch a video (not always available). 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 below shows you how the questions in the homework assignments correspond to the sections in each chapter.

<p><b><u>Ch 7 Homework Part 1 (Sec 7.1 to 7.4)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 7 Homework Part 2 (Sec 7.5 to 7.8)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 8 Homework (Sec 8.1 to 8.5)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 9 Homework (Sec 9.1 to 9.7)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 10 Homework (Sec 10.1 to 10.3)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 11 Homework Part 1 (Sec 11.1 to 11.4)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 11 Homework Part 2 (Sec 11.5 to 11.7)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 12 Homework Part 1 (Sec 12.1 to 12.3)</u></b>            Questions 1-19 cover Section 12.1            Questions 20-38 cover Section 12.2            Questions 39-49 cover Section 12.3</p> <p><b><u>Ch 12 Homework Part 2 (Sec 12.4 to 12.6)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 13 Homework Part 1 (Sec 13.1 to 13.4)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 13 Homework Part 2 (Sec 13.5 to 13.7)</u></b>            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><b><u>Ch 14 Homework (Sec 14.1 only)</u></b>            Questions 1-23 cover Section 14.1            (The remainder of Chapter 14 is not covered in this course. You are not responsible for it.)</p> <p><b>There are 1,123 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.</b></p>
--	--

## C. Taking Tests

There are two kinds of online tests: sample chapter tests and chapter tests. In addition, you are required to take a midterm exam and final exam in person on campus.

### Sample Chapter Tests

The sample chapter tests are an excellent way to prepare for the chapter tests. Sample chapter tests do not count, and you may take them anytime and as often as you want. To access the sample chapter tests, click on Take a Test on the CourseCompass main menu. You will see a list of chapter tests and sample chapter tests. The sample chapter tests are optional, but it would be unwise to take a chapter test without first taking the sample chapter test.

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.

### Chapter Tests

You will take eight chapter tests. You may take a chapter test only after you have completed at least 25% of the homework for that chapter. While the sample chapter tests may be taken repeatedly, you have only one chance at the chapter test. Give yourself plenty of time before the chapter test deadline. You have a maximum of two hours to complete each test, but most tests will take much less time than that. You will know what to expect on the chapter test if you have taken the sample chapter test.

**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 for that test is 0. You may always work ahead of the schedule, but do not fall behind!!! The calendar at the end of this syllabus shows all the test deadlines and other important dates. Note that most chapter test deadlines are on Sundays at 11:59 p.m.

### On-Campus Tests

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. You may not use any notes on the on-campus tests, although you are permitted to use a calculator. **Be sure to bring a Photo ID to the on-campus tests.** See the calendar below for the dates.

Note regarding calculators: I recommend that you buy an inexpensive scientific calculator (\$10-\$20) to use on all exams. Only scientific calculators are permitted on exams. You may not use graphing calculators (such as the TI-84) or “computer algebra system” calculators (such as the TI-89 or the TI Voyage), nor may you use cell phone calculators, personal digital assistants (such as the iPod Touch) or computers.

Please continue to Page 7.

## DISCUSSION BOARD

All questions and comments about the course or the subject matter should be posted on the Discussion Board. Please answer your classmates' questions if you can. Once a day (typically in the evenings) I will check the Discussion Board and post replies to questions that still need my input.

You may have questions that are not appropriate for the Discussion Board. In that case, please feel free to email me directly. Please don't email me with algebra questions; I will simply ask you to post it to the Discussion Board.

## STUDENT HOME PAGES

One downside to taking a class online is that you don't get to meet your classmates and interact with them in person. But there is a way to approximate the experience. Each of you will post a little bit of information about yourself on a home page that you make using CourseCompass. It is very easy to do, and you can even upload a photograph if you want to. To create a home page, click Tools from the main menu and then click on Homepage. Can you think of something that is unique about you? Post it!

To see the home pages posted by your classmates, click on Communication from the main menu, then click on Roster. You can search for a particular classmate or simply list them all. Clicking on their name will display their home page.

## SENDING EMAIL

Using CourseCompass you can send email to selected classmates or even the entire class. Click on Communication, then click on Send Email. **IMPORTANT:** When you send me email (either through CourseCompass or using your preferred email program) 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."

## CALCULATING YOUR COURSE GRADE

Homework*	= 250 pts	900 – 1000 pts	= A
Chapter Tests	= 250 pts	800 – 899 pts	= B
Midterm	= 250 pts	700 – 799 pts	= C
Final Exam	= 250 pts	600 – 699 pts	= D
-----		0 – 599 pts	= F
	1000 pts		

\*Note regarding homework: You will earn all 250 points in the homework category if you successfully complete all of the assigned questions. There are 1,123 of them. Doing fewer than 1,123 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 62.5 points in the homework category.

## STAYING IN COMMUNICATION

On Thursday, July 8, 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, Wednesday, July 7, I will drop you from the class.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU NEED HELP?

- Post a question on the Discussion Board.
- Email me, telephone me or visit me.
- Use the Math Success Center on Mondays through Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Math Success Center is located in room B363. The Center offers FREE drop-in tutoring in all math classes. Enroll in TU 301 (Ticket 60935 or 90085) 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.
- 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.
- For technical help with *MyMathLab* or CourseCompass see below.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Support for CourseCompass and *MyMathLab* is offered at <http://247xl.custhelp.com>. There are three ways to get help: 1) You can search their database for solutions to known problems, (2) you can send an email, or (3) you can text chat live with a technical support person.

Please continue to Page 9.

# July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					Orientation 5:30-6:30 p.m. Room B211	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					Drop with refund deadline	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Chapters 7 & 8 Test Deadlines 11:59 pm					Drop w/o W, Elect Pass/NoP deadlines	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Chapter 9 Test Deadline 11:59 pm						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Chapter 10 Test Deadline 11:59 pm		Midterm Exam 5:00-7:00 p.m. Room TBA			Last Day To Drop Deadline	

# August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chapter 11 Test Deadline 11:59 pm						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Chapter 12 Test Deadline 11:59 pm					Final Exam 5:00-7:00 p.m. Room TBA	Ch13 Test Ch14.1 Test Deadline 11:59 pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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 (Friday, July 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Room B211).

Follow the instructions below. The deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 2. 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. Go to the Discussion Board. Open the thread called "Tell a Joke." Read the message I put there and follow the directions.
3. Create a Homepage for yourself. Click Tools/Homepage. You don't have to get fancy here. Just a few words about yourself, perhaps your interests and goals and a picture if you are so inclined.
4. Click on Chapter Contents and navigate your way to Section 12.2. Watch the video lecture for Section 12.2. What is the first sentence the instructor says when the video begins?
5. Navigate to Section 13.3. Open the multimedia textbook section. Go to page 829. What is the word in bold at the beginning of Example 6?
6. 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?
7. Click on Take a Test. Take the Chapter 7 Sample Test. Answer at least one question (right or wrong – I don't care). Submit the test. How many questions are there in this sample test?
8. When you send your instructor an email message, what words should you include in the subject field? (Hint: See page 7 of this syllabus.)
9. If you have an algebra question should you send it to your instructor or post it on the Discussion Board?
10. Suppose you get perfect scores on every test (let's hope!). But suppose you only do the required minimum number of homework problems (25% of every assignment). How many points will you earn in the course? What will be your grade in the class?
11. What happens if you fall behind schedule and don't take a chapter test before the deadline?
12. Have you read and understood this entire syllabus?
13. Send me an email message with your answers to questions 4 through 12 above. PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS IN #8 ABOVE. Your email must reach me no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 2. If your answers are all correct and you have also completed #2 and #3, I will send you a reply to let you know that you are excused from the orientation.

Have a great six weeks. Stay focused. Work hard!