COLLEGE ALGEBRA

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES – DEPARTMENT OF MATH AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

50707 – MATH 1111-C – SUMMER SESSION II 2013 – 3 CREDIT HOURS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

PROF. SHAUN V. AULT

Office: NH 1125

Office Hours: MTWR: 12:35-1:30.

Email: svault@valdosta.edu (preferred method of communication)

Phone: (229) 293-6305 (sorry, no voicemail)

COURSE INFORMATION

Meeting Times: MTWR: 11:10-12:35.

Lecture Room: NH 1065

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- Algebraic topics including polynomials, rational expressions, equations, inequalities, graphing, exponents and radicals, relations and functions through exponential and logarithmic functions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Area **A2**. Students will demonstrate mathematical proficiency by analyzing a variety of functions and solving various equations.
- Learning Goal 3: **Critical Thinking (CT)**. Students will identify, evaluate, and apply appropriate models, concepts, or principles to issues, and they will produce viable solutions or make relevant inferences.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

CALCULATOR

TI-83/84 graphing calculator or equivalent, although any scientific calculator will be sufficient.

TEXTBOOK

- ***College Algebra***
- **Author:** Blitzer, Robert
- **Publisher:** Prentice Hall (Pearson)

All material studied in this course comes from the text. For best understanding of the material, read each section before the lecture on that section.

MYMATHLAB

We will be using the online component of your textbook, called **MyMathLab**. MyMathLab is required, and if you purchase your textbook at the University book store, it will come bundled with a MyMathLab Access Key. To access MyMathLab, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.mymathlab.com, find *Register* on the right, and click the *Student* link.
2. Enter the Course ID for this course: **ault94197**
3. Create a Pearson Account, unless you have already created one in another course that used MyMathLab, in which case, just sign in. Note, even if you already have a Pearson account, you will still need a new Access Key for this course.
4. Enter your **Access Key**. This is the code that comes bundled with your textbook. If you did not purchase the textbook, you may still access MyMathLab by purchasing the Access Key online. There is an online version of the textbook available on MyMathLab for those students who choose to purchase only the Access Key.

If for any reason you cannot register on MyMathLab, please see me **as soon as possible**! All homework will be handled using MyMathLab, and you will find it extremely difficult to pass the course without completing the homework.

ONLINE HOMEWORK

Homework is the **key** to mastering the concepts of any math course. Without the practice of doing homework – sometimes with much trial and error – students may not gain a proper understanding of the material. In my experience, those who do very little homework naturally get very low grades on tests. In our course, we will do all of our homework sets online, using MyMathLab.

The online homework system at MyMathLab allows you to practice the concepts, with **immediate feedback**. If you get an answer correct, you will know instantaneously, rather than having to wait to see the grade on a returned homework assignment. If you get an answer incorrect, then you may try again! There are helpful resources available on the website that can guide you to a correct answer, such as **Help Me Solve This** and **View an Example**. The homework is set up to allow unlimited tries for each problem, though you may have to *regenerate* the problem after three incorrect attempts. In order to get the most out of the online homework system, I recommend the following steps:

- You should review your notes and/or textbook to help you remember concepts or formulas relevant to each problem.

- Try the problem on your own first, but don't simply guess at the answer. This is especially important on multiple choice questions. Make sure you understand why an answer is correct.
- If you have trouble with the problem, try **View an Example** to see one method of solving it.
- When all else fails, use **Help Me Solve This**. This feature walks you through every step of the problem. You should follow along with the process, taking notes if it's a very long or tricky problem! When the steps are completed, and you are confident in your understanding, hit **Similar Exercise** or **Try Again** at the bottom of the screen in order to work another problem out for credit (Using **Help Me Solve This** does not give you credit for answering the question).
- For most problems, after the third incorrect attempt, the problem locks up and shows the correct answer. However, you can always hit **Similar Exercise** or **Try Again** to regenerate the question. When you finally enter the correct answer, you will get full credit for the problem.
- Don't use the help features as a crutch. You will know that you understand the problem if you can do it without any assistance.

GRADEBOOK

The grades for each homework set are maintained in your **Gradebook** on MyMathLab.

EBOOK

There is an online version of the textbook, broken down by chapter and section. Click **eBook**, select the chapter and section you want to see, and select **Multimedia Textbook Section**. The eBook is a full version of your textbook. You may opt to use the eBook in lieu of a hardcopy of the textbook. In that case, you must purchase your MyMathLab access key directly from the website. Note, if you choose to use the eBook option, you are still responsible for required reading.

OTHER RESOURCES

You may find the following links under **Tools for Success.**

- **Overcoming Math Axiety Videos** – short videos that help to make algebra a little more accessible.
- **Graphing Calculator Help and Reference Card** – reference guides and tips for using the TI-83/84.
- **Algebra Review Card** – Keep this handy as you encounter new material and work on homework problems! While it cannot be used on a test, this makes a great study guide.

ASSESSMENTS

Your grades are based on the percentage determined by scores on in-class participation, homework, tests, and a final exam.

GRADE BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE

Homework (MyMathLab)	10%
Participation (in class)	10%
Tests (in class)	60%
Final Exam	20%

MORE ABOUT THE ASSESSMENTS

HOMEWORK

Homework is to be completed online at MyMathLab. When you log into MyMathLab, click **HOMEWORK** to view the list of available assignments. The due date for all homework is the day of the final exam, but it is **highly recommended** that you complete a little of the homework each night. It is especially helpful to work on homework from a section that will be covered the next day in lecture, then finish the homework after seeing the lecture on that material. This way, you will immediately find where your trouble spots are and have time to correct them. **If you put off your homework until the 2nd week of the semester or later, you will not do very well in this course!**

The first homework set, *Introduction to MyMathLab* must be completed with 100% score before the next homework set can be opened. Thereafter, each homework set must be completed with at least 70% score before the next homework set can be opened. You may always go back to previous homework sets to work on problems and improve your homework score. All homework closes on the day of the final exam.

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENTS

On each non-test day, we will have various in-class assignments that must be completed to earn a participation grade. These assignments will be collected and read, but not graded. The following is a sample of in-class assignments:

- Responding to discussion questions and surveys
- "Quick Quizzes"
- Worksheets
- Group problem solving
- Test corrections

TESTS

There are **three tests** in this course. The format of each test will be mostly multiple choice questions, together with several free-response problems. Typically, each test covers two chapters of the text, and should take about an hour to complete. You are permitted to use your calculator, but no other study-aids.

FINAL EXAM

A comprehensive, cumulative final exam, 2 hours in length, will be given at the end of the semester. The format for the final exam will be entirely multiple choice. This is a *departmental final*, similar to the common final given to all College Algebra students during the regular school year.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend every class meeting unless there is an excusable absence, such as illness, serious family emergency, or a University-sponsored sporting event in which you are participating. The VSU Undergraduate Catalog states that:

> *A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course.*

The participation grade in this course is based on short writing assignments, quizzes, and discussions that occur in class. These activities are graded only on *completion*, not on correctness. There are no make-ups for in-class participation activities.

COURSE GRADE

Once your raw score has been calculated at the end of the semester it will be rounded to the nearest percent and you will be assigned a letter grade corresponding to the range in which your score falls, as indicated below. Please keep in mind: An 89.4% rounds down to an 89% B, while an 89.5% rounds up to a 90% A. I will not give extra points to push a close grade to the next letter grade!

RAW PERCENTAGE	GRADE LETTER
90% -- 100%	A
80% -- 89%	B
70% -- 79%	C
60% -- 69%	D
0% -- 59%	F

POLICIES

USE OF CALCULATORS

According to Math/CS Department policy, the TI-83/84 graphing calculator is required for this course. However, for the vast majority of problems, no calculator is necessary. In fact, reliance on the calculator may result in a poorer understanding of the concepts and methods of Algebra. We will use calculators in this course mainly for routine arithmetic and graphing functions. You may use a calculator on any homework, quiz, test, and the final exam. If your calculator is not the TI-83/84 or a basic scientific calculator, then you must clear it with me in the first week of classes.

MISSING WORK

- **Tests:** No make-up work will be allowed unless there is an excused absence. Depending on the circumstances, I may choose to substitute a missing test score with the final exam grade, **but this is not guaranteed!**
- **Final Exam:** Missing the final exam without prior notice results in a grade of F for the course.

FURTHER INFORMATION

BLAZEVIEW D2L

All students should have access to the **BlazeView D2L** website for this course. We will use BlazeView for:

- Course Information, including this syllabus
- Calendar of assignments
- Class-wide announcements
- Record of grades on tests (homework grades are recorded in MyMathLab)
- Copies of any handouts and review sheets given in class
- Solutions to tests (after they are graded and returned)
- Useful web links related to topics discussed in class

REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications (such as extra time on tests or a distraction-free environment, etc.) due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY). More information can be found at **www.valdosta.edu/access**.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

The Student Success Center (SSC) provides free peer tutoring for all VSU students in core courses. The SSC also offers time management and study skills workshops. The SSC is located in Langdale Hall. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment or visit the website, **www.valdosta.edu/ssc**.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Evidence of the following infractions will result in a **zero** for the test or exam on which it occurred, as well as a Report of Academic Dishonesty being sent to the Student Conduct Office in the Dean of Students Office.

- Copying the work of another student.
- Allowing a situation in which copying can occur, such as showing your answers or signaling to another test-taker.
- Using a *cheat sheet* or any written material not permitted on the test.
- Accessing the internet for any reason during a test.

Further evidence of cheating after the first incident will result in an **F** for the course as well as additional sanctions imposed by the University. All in-class tests will be given in multiple versions to reduce the temptation of copying.

EXTRA CREDIT

Sorry, but there is **no extra credit**! In order to earn a high grade in this course, you must complete all of the work in a timely fashion, and do well on the tests and final exam.

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE

This is the tentative lecture and test schedule. You are responsible for reading each section as part of your homework for this course.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
		6/5: Introduction, P.1	6/6: P.2—3
6/10: P.3—4	6/11: P.5	6/12: P.6	6/13: 1.1—2
6/17: 1.3	6/18: 1.4	6/19: 1.5	6/20: **TEST 1** (Ch. P; 1.1—5)
6/24: 1.6—7	6/25: 2.1—2	6/26: 2.3—4	6/27: 2.5
7/1: 2.6—7	7/2: 2.7—8	7/3: **TEST 2** (1.6—7; Ch. 2)	7/4: *No Classes*
7/8: 3.1—2	7/9: 3.5	7/10: 3.6—7	7/11: 4.1
7/15: 4.2	7/16: 4.3	7/17: 4.4—5	7/18: **TEST 3** (Ch. 3; Ch. 4)
7/22: 5.1	7/23: Review Day	7/24: Optional Review Session	7/25: **FINAL EXAM**