Course Syllabus - Fall 2009
Math 50 - Elementary Algebra
Course #26526 (4 units)
MW, 8:00 – 9:40 am, room 30-6

Instructor: Stephen Toner
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Fall Calendar:

Aug. 24	Classes Begin
Sept. 7	Labor Day Holiday
Nov. 3	Last day to drop with a "W" grade
Nov. 9	Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 12	End of Spring semester

Prerequisite: Math 10 or Math 12 with a grade of "C" or better, or eligibility as determined by placement on the VVC assessment exam. **Be sure that you meet this requirement.**

Course Description: This course covers signed number arithmetic, square roots, order of operations and algebraic expressions. It also covers equation solving, factoring, graphs of linear equations and solving systems of equations.

You are required to attend class every day. After **4** hours of absence, you **may be dropped** from this class. It is **your responsibility** to keep your enrollment status current. You risk an "F" if you stop attending without officially withdrawing. Do not bring friends or children to class. **Please turn any cell phones or pagers to silent mode during class time.** No cell phones will be allowed on your desk during exams.

Textbook: *Introductory Algebra, 2nd edition*, Miller / O'Neill / Hyde.

Choice #1: Purchase ALEKS online for $63, tax included. Electronic access to text included.
Choice #2: Purchase ALEKS from VVC bookstore for $86.95 plus tax. Electronic access to text included.
Choice #3: Purchase loose-leaf version of text at VVC bookstore for $145.95 plus tax. ALEKS access is included in bundle.

Go to "www.aleks.com/**sign_up"** and enter the Course Code: **YMW49-KNN3K**. If you have an access code, enter it. Otherwise, click on "purchase an access code online" link. Choose the 18-week option (which will cost $63.)

In a way, this is a "bookless" class. While lecturing, I will refer to exercises within the text, but no homework will be required from the text, only from ALEKS (see below). If you go with Choice #1 or Choice #2 above, you will still have access to the book electronically. If you desire to have a book to hold and read, that will be at your discretion. You will not be required to have a copy of the text with you at class meetings.

Homework Policy: Practice is essential. You will be responsible for filling in the appropriate pieces of your Aleks pie. Suggested chapter deadlines will be posted to mark your progress through the course. At the end of the semester, you will receive homework credit for the portion of the Aleks pie which you have completed and assessed through. Do not fall too far behind in your ALEKS homework, as ALEKS will assign you material sequentially. For example, you may want to practice chapter 4 material in order to prepare for a test, but ALEKS will require you to show proficiency in chapter 3 first. Don't try to "out-wit" the artificial intelligence of ALEKS!

Your initial ALEKS assessment is the most important, as it will establish your starting point for the semester's homework assignments. **Set a couple of hours aside for this first assessment!** After you complete 20 topics, ALEKS will reassess your progress on recent material in order to verify whether you have mastered the material or not. You may find that it will skip you forward or drop you backward based on the answers you enter.

Grading Policies: Grades will be based on your Aleks homework (worth two chapter tests), all chapter tests (the lowest chapter score – or half of your Aleks homework score will be dropped), and a cumulative, comprehensive final exam (worth two chapter tests, but not droppable). You may use a non-graphing, non-programmable calculator on each exam. No notes or "cheat sheets" will be allowed on any exam. Any exam not taken will be regarded as a zero. You are expected to complete all exams during class on the dates and times scheduled. **No make-up or re-take exams will be given.**

Ch 1 _____	Ch 4 _____	Ch 7 _____	Aleks 1 _____	**Not droppable:**
Ch 2 _____	Ch 5 _____	Ch 8 _____	Aleks 2 _____	Final 1 _____
Ch 3 _____	Ch 6 _____	Ch 9 _____		Final 2 _____

Grading Scale: **A**=90% or above; **B**=80%-89.9%; **C**=70%-79.9%; **D**=65%-69.9%; **F**=below 65%

Tentative Class Schedule

Every effort will be made to adhere as closely as possible to this schedule. If we can ever "get ahead" of the pace, we will take the opportunity to do so, just in case we need extra time on other material, later in the course. Test dates are **fixed**, however. They will not change, regardless of our progress through the course.

		Sections to be Covered In Class			**Sections to be Covered In Class**
M	8/24	Aleks, Intro, 1.1, 1.2	M	10/19	6.2, 6.3, 6.4 (Aleks Ch 5 "due")
W	8/26	1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6	W	10/21	6.5, 6.6
M	8/31	Review, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3	M	10/26	6.7, 6.8
W	9/2	2.4, 2.5, 2.6a (Aleks Ch 1 "due")	W	10/28	Review, 7.1, 7.2
M	9/7	**No School – Labor Day Holiday**	M	11/2	**Test Ch. 5 & 6** (Aleks Ch 6 "due")
W	9/9	2.7, 2.8	W	11/4	7.3, 7.4, 7.5
M	9/14	Review, 3.1, 3.2	M	11/9	**No School – Veteran's Day Holiday**
W	9/16	**Test Ch. 1 & 2** (Aleks Ch 2 "due")	W	11/11	7.6, 7.7, 7.8
M	9/21	3.3, 3.4	M	11/16	Review, 8.1, 8.2 (Aleks Ch 7 "due")
W	9/23	3.5, 3.6 (skip 3.7, 3.8)	W	11/18	8.3, 8.4, 8.5
M	9/28	4.1, 4.2, 4.3 (Aleks Ch 3 "due")	M	11/23	8.6, 9.1 (skip 8.7)
W	9/30	4.4, 4.5	W	11/25	**Test Ch. 7 & 8** (Aleks Ch 8 "due")
M	10/5	Review, 5.1, 5.2	M	11/30	9.2, 9.3
W	10/7	**Test Ch. 3 & 4** (Aleks Ch 4 "due")	W	12/2	Review chapter 9 and final exam
M	10/12	5.3, 5.4, 5.5	M	12/7	**Test Ch. 9** (Aleks Ch 9 "due")
W	10/14	5.6, 5.7, 6.1	W	12/9	**Final Exam** (Aleks grade finalized)

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is not a measure of performance or proficiency. Whether a student is just physically present in the class is not a valid basis for grading. Reference Title 5 Section 55002 of the California Code of Regulations: (A) Grading Policy. The course provides for measurement of student performance in terms of stated course objectives and culminates in a formal, permanently recorded grade based upon uniform standards in accordance with section 55758 of this Division. The grade is based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter and the ability to demonstrate that proficiency, at least in part, by means of written expression that may include essays, or, in courses where the curriculum committee deems them to be appropriate, by problem solving exercises or skills demonstrations by students.

Statement of Access: Students with special needs are encouraged to meet with instructors to discuss the opportunity for academic accommodation and be referred to disabled student program and services per Administrative Procedure (AP 3440)