

**MATH 115: Beginning Algebra (Section 27859)**  
**East Los Angeles College Spring 2019**

**Instructor:** Regis Smith (smithr@elac.edu)

**Classroom:** G5-118 MW 1:45–4:15pm

**Web Site:** <https://whistlin.com/>

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, May 29, 2:30–4:30pm

**Text:** *Elementary & Intermediate Algebra*, by Bittinger, Ellenbogen, & Johnson (any edition)

**Office:** G5-111W   **Phone:** (323) 265-8887

**Office Hours:** MTWTh 12:30–1:35, MW 4:25–4:40, TTh 4:10–4:35

### **Course description**

This class introduces beginning algebra concepts which are useful in almost all fields. Topics include arithmetic with real numbers, solving and graphing linear equations/inequalities, solving linear systems, ratios and percents, general problem solving, arithmetic with polynomials, factoring polynomials, solving polynomial equations, and computing with rational expressions.

There are three term exams (**Feb. 27, Mar. 20, Apr. 24**) and a final exam (**May 29**). All exams are “closed-book” and cumulative. We will have weekly “open-book” quizzes. “Open-book” means you can use your textbook and notes (but you can’t share them with anyone else). Homework will be assigned weekly.

If you aim to complete this course successfully, you must complete the homework assignments in a timely manner, and check your solutions. This course is ALL ABOUT doing and checking homework, for there is no other way to adequately prepare for exams. You should set a weekly homework schedule and stick to it.

### **Grading**

Grades are computed using the following percentages.

**10% Homework    15% Quizzes    50% Term Exams    25% Final Exam**

Letter grades are assigned using the standard scale: 90%+ A, 80-89.9% B, 70-79.9% C, 60-69.9% D, <60% F

### **Makeup Work**

You are required to attend all class sessions. Absences are excused only if documentation is provided and verified by the instructor. If you have an excused absence, it is your responsibility to arrange a time to make up missed work.

### **Academic Honesty**

You may not receive help from anyone or anything (calculator, cell phone) on an exam or quiz. You are encouraged to do homework with others, but you may never blindly copy another student’s homework. Cheating on any assignment will result in a grade of zero on that assignment.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodation must provide verification of their disability to Disabled Student Program and Services (DSP&S). DSP&S is located in E1-106 and appointments can be made by calling (323) 265-8787. Upon verification of a disability, DSP&S will provide a letter outlining accommodations which the student must deliver to the instructor. If a student believes that accommodations offered are inappropriate or insufficient, (s)he should seek the assistance of the DSP&S Coordinator and/or the Vice President of Student Services.

## Goals

There are several skills you must learn, which will be tested on exams and quizzes. Here is a short list of things you will be able to do when you complete this course.

1. You can do arithmetic (+, -, 'times') with signed integers.
2. You understand operator precedence (PEMDAS) and are comfortable computing complicated expressions.
3. You have a deep understanding of ratios and percents.
4. You can solve linear equations and inequalities, and model real-life problems using these.
5. You can graph linear equations, and find equations of lines using several techniques.
6. You can do arithmetic with polynomials, including long division.
7. You can factor certain polynomials, and use factored polynomials to solve equations, among other things.
8. You can do arithmetic with rational expressions, and solve equations involving rational expressions.

## Help

I am available during class or in my office. To make an appointment, just send me an email. *Any email you send should include your name, and the name of the class (MATH 115) in the subject line.*

In addition, you should utilize the Mathematic Tutoring Center in the basement of G5. This is a great place to study in groups or to get tutoring. You can borrow the text for this class, CDs for each chapter of the text (for extra practice), and videos of lectures.

## Calculators

Calculators and electronic devices are never allowed in this class.