

**East Los Angeles College**  
**Department of Mathematics**  
**Math 115 Elementary Algebra (5 Units)**  
**Spring 2012 Syllabus**

**Instructor Information:**

**Instructor:** Gabriel Castro

**Office:** The Math Lab K5 - 104(Main Campus)

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**Office Phone Number:** (323) 267-3765

**Instructor's Website:** [www.gcastromath.com](http://www.gcastromath.com)

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday 11:00 - 12:15pm or by appointment.

**Course Information:**

**Section:** 0976

**Classroom:** K7 - 109

**Class Time:** Monday - Thursday, 8:20 - 9:30am

**Class Dates:** February 6, 2012 - May 31, 2012

**Prerequisite:**

Satisfactory completion of Mathematics 110, 112 or acceptable level of skill as demonstrated in the mathematics placement process.

**Course Description:**

This course covers the fundamentals of beginning algebra. The topics presented include signed numbers, evaluation of algebraic expressions, exponents, solving equations, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, graphs, systems of equations, inequalities, topics in geometry, and applications.

**Suggested Course Outline:**

**Unit #1**

Chapter 1: Introduction to Algebraic Expressions

Chapter 2: Equations, Inequalities, and Problem Solving

**Unit #2**

Chapter 3: Introduction to Graphing

Chapter 8: Systems of Linear Equations and Problem Solving

8.1 Systems of Equations in Two Variables

8.2 Solving by Substitution or Elimination

8.3 Solving Applications: Systems of Two Equations

Chapter 9: Inequalities and Problem Solving

9.4 Inequalities in Two Variables

**Unit #3**

Chapter 4: Polynomials

Chapter 5: Polynomials and Factoring

Simplifying Radicals, Square root method & the Quadratic Formula

**Unit #4**

Chapter 6: Rational Expressions and Equations

Parabolas & Completing the Square

**Course Materials:**

**Required Online Component:** My Math Lab via [www.coursecompass.com](http://www.coursecompass.com)

**My Math Lab Course ID:** castro85779

**Text:** Elementary & Intermediate Algebra, Concepts & Applications Fifth edition, by Bittinger or  
Elementary & Intermediate Algebra, Concepts & Applications Third edition for East Los Angeles College, by Bittinger

**Calculator:** Scientific calculator is recommended, but not required.  
Calculators are **not allowed** during exams.

**Grading:**

Online Homework:	8%	
Take-home Exams (4):	8%	A = 90% – 100%
Green Book Projects (4):	8%	
Quizzes:	10%	B = 80% – 89%
Unit Exams:		
Exam #1:	10%	C = 70% – 79%
Exam #2:	10%	
Exam #3:	10%	D = 55% – 69%
Exam #4:	10%	
Comprehensive Final:	26%	F = 0% – 54%

**Replacement Unit Exam Grade:**

The lowest Unit Exam grade will be replaced with the average of the Final Exam grade and the lowest Unit Exam grade.

**Student Learning Outcome (SLO):**

After successfully completing Math 115, the student will be able to

- 1.) Solve a quadratic equation by method of factoring.
- 2.) Given a linear equation in standard form, students will:
  - (a) Write the equation in slope-intercept form
  - (b) Determine the slope
  - (c) Determine the y-intercept
  - (d) Graph the equation

**Attendance:**

Attendance is the student's responsibility. Students are expected to be present at every class meeting. Failure to attend class will result in missing valuable information. All students are solely responsible for coursework missed as a result of an absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out what they missed from their classmates. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class via a quiz.

The instructor has the right to drop the student from the course if a student is absent at least three class meetings.

**Online Homework:**

Homework assignments are posted on My Math Lab and have due dates. Homework assignments pertaining to their unit exam are due the day of the exam at 8:30am. Online homework assignment due dates will not be extended. No exceptions.

### **Take-home Unit Exams:**

Take-home Unit Exams are posted on My Math Lab. Students must print it out and perform all relevant on them. Take-home Unit Exams are due the day of the Unit Exam. Take-home Unit Exams must be completed as follows:

- i. Legible
- ii. If a pencil is used, then all apparent mistakes must be erased not scribbled over.
- iii. If a pen is used, then all apparent mistakes must be covered with white-out not scribbled over.
- iv. Must show all relevant work on the exam.
- v. Completed, to the best of the student's ability.

**(All exercises must be attempted)**

If a take-home Unit Exam is not submitted in this manner, the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Only selected problems will be graded.

Late take-home Unit Exams will not be accepted and no extensions will be given.

No exceptions.

### **Green Book Projects:**

Green book assignments will be posted on My Math Lab. Each assignment will consist of exercises to supplement main topics from the unit. These assignments are due the day before the Unit Exam. Green Book assignments must be completed as follows:

- i. Legible
- ii. In order by exercise
- iii. If a pencil is used, then all apparent mistakes must be erased not scribbled over.
- iv. If a pen is used, then all apparent mistakes must be covered with white-out not scribbled over.
- v. Must be done in a Green Book.
- vi. Completed, to the best of the student's ability.

**(All exercises must be attempted)**

If a Green Book Project is not submitted in this manner, the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Only selected problems will be graded.

Late Green Book Projects will not be accepted and no extensions will be given.

No exceptions.

### **Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be given on a daily basis. Some quizzes may be given as a take-home quiz, but the instructor will inform you of any take-home quizzes. All quizzes must be completed as follows:

- i. Legible
- ii. If a pencil is used, then all apparent mistakes must be erased not scribbled over.
- iii. If a pen is used, then all apparent mistakes must be covered with white-out not scribbled over.

If a quiz is not submitted in this manner, the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Students are able to receive assistance on a take-home quiz.

There are no make-up quizzes and late take-home quizzes will not be accepted.

No exceptions.

### **Unit Exams:**

There will be 4 Unit Exams which will be given in class. The units are stated in the suggested course outline. All unit exams are one hour and 10 minutes in time.

All Unit Exams must be completed as follows:

- i. Legible
- ii. If a pencil is used, then all apparent mistakes must be erased not scribbled over.
- iii. If a pen is used, then all apparent mistakes must be covered with white-out not scribbled over.

If a Unit Exam is not submitted in this manner, the student will receive a grade of zero on the Unit Exam.

There are no make-up Unit Exams.

No exceptions.

### **Final Exam Date & Time:**

Thursday, May 31, 2012, 7:00 - 9:00am

### **Extra Credit:**

Extra credit will be given to students who receive 100% on their online homework. It is possible for the instructor to give more extra credit, but that will be at the instructor's discretion.

**Board Rule 9803.12 Dishonesty - East Los Angeles College - Policy On Academic Honesty**

Refer to the East Los Angeles General Catalog 2011 - 2013 page 28.

**Electronic Device Class Policy:**

An electronic device such as a cell phone, PDA, MP3 player (earphones included), Bluetooth device, computer and recording devices may not be out and may not be used while the class is in session. Students must put all such devices away while the class is in session. If a student is caught with an electronic device while the class is in session, the student will be deducted 25% from their upcoming in-class exam.

A student who has lost 25% on their in-class exam, due to an electronic device, can earn the right to regain their points by submitting an extra assignment. The extra assignments will be posted on My Math Lab and must be completed similarly to a Green Book Project. The assignment due date will be determined by the instructor.

**Definition of caught with an electronic device in class:**

If the instructor

- i. Sees it the electronic device
- ii. Hears the electronic device  
(This includes a phone ringing, beeping, vibrating, etc)
- iii. Sees a student texting
- iv. Sees any one checking their electronic device while the class is in session

This also means that students will close all book bags, purses, etc and set these items next to them on the floor or underneath their chair. Students will not be allowed to place their bag on top of their desk or on their lap while the class is in session. I suggest that each student turn off their electronic device and put it away while the class is in session.

## Spring 2012 East Los Angeles Academic Calendar:

<b>Monday, Feb. 06</b>	<b>All Classes Begin</b>
Feb. 06 - Feb. 21	Late Registration - open enrollment for open classes (based on instructor add permit)
<b>Feb.13 - June 01</b>	<b>Graduation Petitions for Spring 2012</b>
	<b>Saturday Classes First Class Meeting</b>
<b>Fri.-Mon., Feb. 17-20</b>	<b>Holiday-College Closed (President's Holiday) .</b>
<b>Tues., Feb. 21</b>	<b>*ADD DEADLINE-Last Day to Add or Audit Full Term Classes</b> (Date for short term classes is approx. 20% of term)
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 21</b>	<b>*DROP DEADLINE#1-Last Day to Drop Classes Without Having to Pay Fees</b>
Friday, Mar. 02	Last Day to file for Pass/No Pass
Friday, Mar. 02	Last Day for Section Transfers
<b>Sunday, Mar. 04</b>	<b>*DROP DEADLINE#2-Last Day to Drop Online Without Class Appearing on Transcript</b>
Friday, Mar. 09	Check Refunds Mailed (for students who paid with check)
Friday, Mar. 23	Graduation Petitions - Deadline for Posting in Commencement Ceremony Program
<b>Friday, March 30</b>	<b>HOLIDAY-CESAR CHAVEZ DAY</b>
<b>April 2-9</b>	<b>Spring Vacation-Non-Instruction</b>
<b>Sunday, May 06</b>	<b>*DROP DEADLINE#3-Last Day to Drop Classes Online with a "W" (75% of term)</b>
Sunday, May 27	Last Day of Full Term Class Instruction
<b>Monday, May 28</b>	<b>Holiday-College Closed (Memorial Day)</b>
May 29 - June 04	Final Examinations
Friday, June 01	Commencement Ceremony
Monday, June 04	Spring 2012 Semester Ends

**\*Note:** Syllabus subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.