

## MATH 121 Syllabus for Section 10037

**Instructor Information:** My name is Laura Shears. I have a Master's Degree in mathematics. You will find contact information that I update each semester at: [http://laurashears.info/math121/course\\_information\\_pages/](http://laurashears.info/math121/course_information_pages/). This information gets updated very close to the first day of class after I find out my complete schedule. You may call me Laura, Prof. Shears, or Mrs. Shears.

### Supplies

- **Required calc:** A graphing calculator is required for this course. The TI-83 or TI-84 is recommended and supported. Although the 83 is sufficient for all courses at LCC, you may want to consider the TI-89 if you will be going on past Calc I. The TI-89 is not supported in this class meaning, your teacher won't be much help with this calculator.
- **Required text:** Bittinger, et al., Precalculus: Graphs and Models, 2009, 4th ed, Addison Wesley
- **Recommended text:** Bittinger, et al., Graphing Calculator Manual, Addison Wesley, 4th ed, 2009, (included with a new book).
- **Required:** MyMathLab access (included with a new book).
- **Required:** Internet access and browser (Internet Explorer 7 or 8 or Firefox 3 is recommended) capable of multimedia. LCC has plenty of computers available for student use.
- **Optional:** text: Bittinger, et al., Student Solutions Manual, Addison Wesley, 4th ed, 2009, 0-321-28794-0.
- **Optional:** Bittinger, Beecher, Ellenbogen, Penna, Digital Video Tutor, Addison Wesley, 4th ed, 2009, (included in MyLab / Mastering)
- **Optional:** Bittinger, Beecher, Ellenbogen, Penna, AWL Math Tutor Center, Addison Wesley, 2009 (included with a new book)

### Grades

6 tests...	$6 \times 100$ pts	= 600	935 - 1000	4.0	705 - 764	2.0
20 activities...	$20 \times 4$ pts	= 80	875 - 934	3.5	645 - 704	1.5
6 quizzes...	$6 \times 20$ pts	= 120	815 - 874	3.0	595 - 644	1.0
final exam ...		= $\frac{200}{1000}$	765 - 814	2.5	0 - 594	0.0
total...						

**Tests:** There are 6 graded tests in this course and all of them count towards your grade. **You must complete the corresponding quiz before taking the exam. Redo the quiz, until you have a score of at least 80%.** On test day, if you have not completed the online quiz at 80% or above, you will be asked to go to the Math Help Desk and work on that while your classmates take the exam. Before I leave for the day, I will check on you are if you are not qualified to take the exam by then, you will not have the opportunity to take that exam. A makeup exam will be your only option and you are only allowed 2 of those for the semester. You will need to get qualified for the makeup exam very quickly to avoid being dropped from the course.

**Activities:** Most days in which we cover new material will have 1-2, 4 point activities related to either that days or the prior days material (warm up activity). The top 20 of these activities will count in your grade. The activities can be considered a combination of attendance and participation points, since most of them must be completed in class. Please keep up with your non-graded homework so you are prepared for warm up type activities as well as current activities.

**Quizzes:** There will be one quiz assignment for each of the six units. Most or all quiz problems will be available online so you can get immediate feedback on your work allowing you to get help and try again until you get a perfect score. **You must keep up with these quizzes, so that you will be allowed to take the corresponding exams.**

**Extra Credit:** In addition to the graded homework, there will be an online extra credit in Angel for each unit worth 5 points. You should attempt to complete this extra credit before the corresponding test, however you are allowed resubmit it after the test for more points since it should help you prepare for the final exam. You are required to complete the extra credit to perfection before being allowed to take a corresponding makeup exam. Extra credit can raise your grade by no more than 0.5. For example if you earned 780 regular points plus 50 extra credit points, you would end up with a 3.0 in the course.

**MyMathLab:** MyMathLab is found in the MyLab / Mastering website: (<http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com/>). There will be 3 MyMathLab assignments, which can be done outside of class. The first one is a required task of all Math 121 students. These assignments are put together by another instructor who is doing a study to see if MyMathLab helps students do better in the course. Each of the 3 MyMathLab assignments will be worth 8 points of extra credit. You may also use other features of MyLab /Mastering to help you practice the material. I will let you know when the extra credits are ready for you to take. Our course id and information for enrolling in MyMathLab is located in Angel.

**Final Exam:** There will be a two part department comprehensive final exam given on the last day of class.

**Makeup Tests:** You will have an opportunity to redo up to 2 tests if you are unhappy with your scores. Be aware that it is possible to lower your grade by taking a make up exam. After you complete the corresponding extra credit and quiz, you must notify me of your desire to take a makeup exam so I can get one ready for you. Your score for the second exam will count if it is higher. Your score for both exams will be averaged if the score on the second exam is lower. **If you wish to take a makeup exam, redo the quiz and the corresponding extra credit until you have a score of 100%.**

## Homework

It is important to note, that quizzes only offers you a small sample of problems. This is not nearly enough to do well on tests.

Therefore it is essential that you also get plenty of practice by completing the homework daily which includes problems from the department assignment sheet and extra handouts. It is important that you get all of your questions answered on anything that seems difficult in the homework and that you go back over problems that you needed help with so you can try them again on your own. If you wish to have guided help through the homework, you can do it in MyMathLab, but be sure you are able to do it on your own before you take an exam.

## Questions

Most students will find at least some of the topics in this course difficult. Please take advantage of the Liberal Studies Academic Resource Center (ARC) in room A&S 455 and/or tutoring at LCC East (times TBA), to get as many of your questions answered before the next class meeting as possible.

## Angel

You can find copies of handouts, discussion boards, relevant links, this syllabus, announcements, corrections, and possibly some interactive learning objects in our Angel course site. Your grades will also be kept up to date in Angel, so you never have to wonder how you are doing in the course.

## Syllabus

The official course syllabus is available for your review at: <http://www.lcc.edu/catalog/syllabus/>. Type in MATH 121 for the current semester and click 'Search' to find the syllabus.

## Drops

If you find you don't have enough time to devote to this course to succeed, please take note of the drop dates posted in the Course Calendar. Note that once a signature from me is required, you are also required to be passing the course with at least a 1.0 to drop, so if you don't think you can earn a 1.0, you should drop in the no signature needed time period.

## Administrative Drops

Students can be administratively dropped for lack of attendance, prerequisites, and/or participation. If you miss the first 2 class days, fail to turn in online homework, fail to qualify to take a test, fail to take a test, or fail to participate in class activities, you will likely be dropped. No further notification is required on my part. If you miss a test, you should let me know of your intent to take a makeup test and you should get qualified for the makeup test within a week of the original test date. On the other hand if you do wish to drop, don't count on being dropped automatically. Take it upon yourself to fill out a drop form. Note: If you have failed or received a 'W' in this class twice before, you are required to see a math advisor one time to set up a plan to succeed.

## Minors

If you are high school age, please note that this is a college class and as such you will be treated like any other college student. If you have questions about anything related to this course, please ask me. Do not ask your parents to discuss it with me. As a college teacher I only discuss grades and other personal information with the student that is involved. If you want to share any information that you get from me with your parents you are welcome to do so, but please take the responsibility upon yourself to discuss issues that concern your progress in the course with me directly.

## Disabilities

If you have a documented disability that requires extra time on tests or any other special accommodations, make sure you visit the Office of Disability Support Services (ODSS: <http://www.lcc.edu/odss/>) each semester and get the required paper work to turn in to each of your teachers.

## Resources

- **Drop in Tutoring:** The Liberal Studies Arc has tutors who are math teachers at LCC to assist you. Check the current hours at: <http://www.lcc.edu/liberalstudies/l sarc/tutorsked.aspx>
- **Tutorial Services:** You can sign up for 1-1 or small group tutoring on a weekly basis at Tutorial Services downtown in A&S 103. Sign up early as appointments go fast: <http://www.lcc.edu/tutorial/>
- **Supplemental Instruction:** Tutorial Services also hires Supplemental Instructors (SI) to run sessions to help students with the course material. Announcements about an SI will be made if one becomes available for our course. Be sure and ask if nothing is mentioned.
- **Technical Help:** If you have troubles with Angel or the LCC website or LCC computers, you can contact the Help Desk at 483-5221 or <http://www.lcc.edu/helpdesk/> for assistance.
- **Publisher Help:** Pearson, the publisher of your textbook has math instructors available to help you with textbook math problems. Check your access code that came with your book if you bought a new book. You can also access MyMathLab for an online version of your textbook, video lectures, and some step by step guidance on working problems. You will be given a class access code for our class Course Compass site.
- **Counseling:** If you need personal assistance check out the Counseling Center in the Gannon Building room 204 on the downtown campus. Their number is 483-1904 and their website is: <http://www.lcc.edu/counseling/>.
- **Advising:** Academic Advising can also be found at the Counseling Center listed above. The website for advising is: <http://www.lcc.edu/advising/>.
- **Your Classmates:** Many students find that working with classmates outside of class can be helpful for getting homework done and preparing for tests. It is good to attempt problems on your own and then get together with others and explain difficult problems to each other. Doing this, both helps the student struggling with a problem and it reinforces concepts for the student who is doing the explaining. You can also help each other on the class discussion board.
- **Your Teacher:** I hold regular office hours, listed at [http://laurashears.info/math121/course\\_information\\_pages/](http://laurashears.info/math121/course_information_pages/) and I also usually work at the Math Help Desk in the LS ARC. I also monitor the help students give each other on the class discussion board.

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