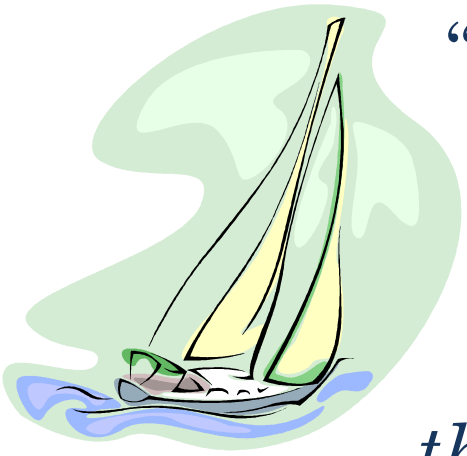
DVC – Math 124 Syllabus



"You can't direct the wind – but you can adjust the sails."

***Course*:**	**Math 124**-3272, Math for Liberal Arts
Location:	Library-143
Instructor:	Mr. Narin
Term:	Fall 2025, (Late Start) Sep 8th – Dec 10th
Time:	MW, 9:35 – 11:25
Class Website:	***MathWithSteve.com***
Email:	**SteveNarin314@gmail.com**
Office Hours:	MW, 11:30 – 12:00

DVC Math/Engineering Student Tutoring Center Hours

Tutoring M–Th: 8am to 8pm
Friday: 10am to 2pm
Counseling Tuesday: 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Required

Texts: ***College Math for the Humanities,* Third Edition, © 2019**
Joe Vasta and Tammy Fisher-Vasta
Publisher: Lulu.com
$25.37 + Shipping (about $8)
Should also be available at the DVC Book Center

Calculator: A simple scientific calculator will be perfect for this class — just look for the SIN button — TI recommended; it's about $13 and will be allowed on every quiz and test. No graphing calculators (or anything that does algebra) are allowed.

We will also use an online graphing program called **Desmos**. There's nothing to install — it runs right in your browser. We're also going to learn the **Python** programming language; it also runs right in your browser. And for statistics stuff, we'll use **Google Sheets**. There's no cost for any of these programs.

Email: As a DVC college student, you are required to check your school email account regularly — that means at least a few times each day.

Grading Components

25 Quizzes @10 points each

3 Tests @100 points each

Various Activities with variable point values

Homework

The problems I assign are designed to inform you as to what skills and concepts you are supposed to be gaining from this class. In other words, you need to do as much homework as you need to — whatever it takes to achieve the degree of success that you desire. In short, it's up to you to discover the homework strategy that suits your personal learning style. Because of this policy, homework is *not* counted toward your grade.

Quizzes

A quiz will be given at the end of each class meeting, including the first day of class, but excluding the three test days. The quizzes cover primarily the previous lecture, and quite likely previous quizzes. If a quiz does cover earlier material, it will be made clear in the **Homework** part of the **Schedule**. I will drop the four lowest quizzes, but neither of the last two. Assume that there will be NO make-ups on quizzes.

Tests

There will be **three** major tests. The tests might contain some T/F, multiple-choice, and matching questions, but mostly "*show your work*" questions (with partial credit quite possible).

Letter Grades

A – 90% and up
B – 80% to 89%
C – 70% to 79%
D – 60% to 69%
F – below 60%

> ***Live*** **as if you were to die tomorrow.**
>
> ***Learn*** **as if you were to live forever.**
>
> **Mahatma Gandhi**

Academic Integrity

Click the following link:

Academic Integrity Policy

That document should answer all your questions regarding this issue.

Please note that — if caught cheating — the consequences I impose will be as harsh as the DVC policy allows.

Catalog Description

This course includes applications and concepts of intermediate algebra and critical thinking to the solving of contemporary problems in mathematics. Topics include statistics, finance, voting/apportionment and include one of the following: sets, probability, geometry, graph theory, exponential and logarithmic functions, mathematics and culture.

Course Content

1. Statistics (measures of central tendency and dispersion, and the use of the normal distribution and applications of margins of error in surveys)
2. Practical applications of geometric series and exponential functions (e.g. financial applications of compound interest, annuity, loan amortization, and annual percentage rates)
3. Exponential and logarithmic functions (modeling exponential growth and decay, and logarithmic scales)

The following additional topics may be selected by the course instructor:

1. Set theory combinatorics, including Cantor's theory of infinite sets.
2. Probability (the application of combinatorics, tree diagrams, and expected values to problems in genetics, medicine, and gambling)
3. Topics from advanced geometry (e.g. analytic geometry, non-Euclidean geometry, and fractals)
4. Analysis of properties of algorithms and graphs (e.g. planar and non-planar graphs, Euler circuits, the traveling salesperson problem, and Hamiltonian circuits)
5. Ethnomathematics (e.g. Egyptian fractions, number systems that don't use base 10: Mayan and Yoruba vigesimal base system and/or Babylonian base 60, Trigonometry and indigenous waterway navigation, Ten's Complement in Chinese abacus that leads to Binary Complement in modern computers)
6. Mathematics and Politics (voting theory and fairness criteria, apportionment paradoxes, Arrow's Theorem, and data interpretation)

SLO's

Compute and interpret future values of simple interest, compound interest, and annuities.

Execute and analyze voting and apportionment algorithms (e.g., Instant Run-off voting, Hamilton's apportionment method).

Calculate measures of central tendency and variation for a given data set.

Define a real-world problem, analyze it mathematically, and formulate and assess its solution.

"Wisdom begins in wonder."

Socrates