

Letter to Math 129 online students:

Welcome! I wanted to welcome you and to warn you *not* to take this course lightly. An online course is *much harder* than a traditional course. The course syllabus is available on Blackboard or on www.stlmath.com. Be sure to read the entire syllabus for class policies. This letter is *not* meant to be a summary of the syllabus.

Make sure you stay on top of the material as it can snowball quickly. On the syllabus, you will find details about MyMathLab (MML), a mandatory, publisher-provided, online homework and testing system. **Your grade consists of many homework assignments and four chapter exams.** Everything will be done in MML including exams as the campus is still closed due to Coronavirus.

You will be expected to use MyMathLab (MML) for graded homework assignments and exams as well as other resources (e.g. videos, guided examples, gradebook, and a copy of your textbook). If you have never used MyMathLab (MML) and need help, you should email me or ask for help from the site itself (www.mymathlab.com). It is crucial you get it set up as quickly as possible. If you run into problems, get help immediately. Do *not* wait.

You will find Class Notes, the syllabus, optional worksheets and other resources on **my Website** www.stlmath.com. You will want to skim every covered section in the book (available in MML) and then complete the Class Notes I have provided. Print the Class Notes and complete them on paper. They will mention worksheets, some optional while others are highly suggested, that will be available on www.stlmath.com.

You will see the due dates for homework in MyMathLab (MML). The homework due dates are set for the Monday after the week you should be working on each section. You should work the homework as much as you can up through the final due date (technically, they are due at midnight of the due date). Assignments are available after the due date. However, a 50% deduction will apply for all problems done after the due date. There are no opening dates for homework, so you can try any homework as early as you want. **The last day you will be allowed to complete MML assignments is Friday, July 31 as that is the last day of our class.**

You may access the MML site directly at www.mymathlab.com. This site must be used to do homework assignments and exams. Your course fees paid to LC include an access code for MML, which is WMCSBM-WHIFF-STORY-MANET-QUASH-DALES. You are *not* required to purchase this code separately as in past semesters. **You will need this to register, along with the course ID which is o'leary-johnson15055. The deadline for registering MML is June 30.** After that, you will be locked out and should drop the class if not enrolled.

When registering MyMathLab, you may wish to use the same login and password you will be using for Blackboard. This will make it easier to remember. If you register MML on your home computer, it will lead you through the process to install the necessary plug-ins on your computer so you can see the course material and work on homework assignments. This should only need to be done once on a given computer, but may need to be done again if settings are changed.

There is a **Blackboard** area for the course. There you will find a copy of the syllabus, links to MyMathLab and www.stlmath.com, and various other resources. It is *not* the main area you will use this semester. You will spend most of your time in MML and www.stlmath.com. In Blackboard, the first thing to do is visit the **Syllabus (Start Here)** area. I am emailing you your syllabus so, quite frankly, you can skip Blackboard. The **Announcements** in Blackboard will *not* be used. Instead, I will email important announcements using your LC email address or the one you provide MML.

Your **grade information** will be found on the MyMathLab Website's Gradebook, *not* the Blackboard gradebook. Be aware that the overall grade will only be accurate if you stay current with the assignments.

Exams should be completed within the school week designated on the syllabus. There are no passwords and you will take these exams *without* coming to campus. Exams will be available for a whole calendar week. You may email me to discuss exams. **You are allowed to use your notes on each exam.**

You will need a scientific calculator to do homework and take exams. If you prefer, feel free to get a calculator app on your phone.

I hope you are as excited to get started as I am. During the first few days of class, take some time to become oriented to the course design and tools so that you learn where things are and how they are to be used. Unlike many online classes, we will rely much more on MyMathLab (MML) and my Website www.stlmath.com than Blackboard. Get familiar with them. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
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(I am *not* on campus this summer. Contact me via email only.)