

## Beginnings – A Short Run-Down

This Document, the Schedule, and the Syllabus are your guides to succeeding in this course. First of all, an explanation of the Main NavBar.

- **Beginnings** – The document you are reading right now.
- **Classlist** – Shows who's in the class, including me (Harry Mills – but ‘most everybody calls me ‘Steve.’). It's where I go to send you e-mail, and you can send ME e-mail by clicking on the "Mills, Harry" link in the classlist.
- **Discussions** – I'm asking for you to check in once a week, at least, and give us all a heads-up on what you learned, what you are struggling with, and how things are going in general. I don't want this to be a major chore, but these discussions are a good place for students to share ideas and find resources for each other.
- **MyLab** – Where the homework and lessons live. You'll spend most of your time in this course on the <http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com> website. You need to go there and register for Course ID **mills99451** for College Algebra Online, Spring 2014
- **Practice Tests** – Tests from previous semesters. This is also where this semester's tests and solutions will be posted. Students report that this is an **essential bridge** between interacting with a computer online (multiple choice and single expression answers) and actually taking a written test, that's graded by a person (me).
- **Schedule** – Aligns the calendar with the work we need to do this semester. Deadlines for tests are listed, here. It should be finished by the end of the first week of classes. Right now, I'm more interested in getting you *started*, and that you are establishing a 12-hour-per-week routine for your work.
- **Syllabus** – Detailed information on this course, including grade scheme, rules of the game, and other material.
- **Tests U Took** – Tests and solutions that you took. There won't be anything there, until after tests are taken.
- **Videos** - The Orientation Video can help give you a feel for the course. Watching it, today, again, I felt that I got carried away doing math, but even though it's a little longer than it should be, it still beats having to come to a face-to-face orientation, where you'd also have to LOOK at me! The Orientation Video was produced in 2011, so there have been minor changes:
  - The front page of [www.aims.edu](http://www.aims.edu) has changed in appearance, but you still follow the MyAims link, now located on the right of the screen.
  - Course ID for College Algebra Online, Spring 2014, is **mills99451** and that is not the one given in the video.
  - The semester schedule in the video is for a previous semester. (Don't worry about this, until Week 2. ).
  - Finally, the PearsonMyLabandMastering website has a very different look! But our focus is just navigating to the Homework and getting started with the quick Orientation assignment,
- **Writing Projects** – Don't worry about them until Week 2. There will be 4 of them, and they're designed to be reasonably brief, and drill deeper into the material.

