

Navigating the Course

Access the Course Shell at <https://online.aims.edu/d2l/login>.

Click here to log in.

The Course Shell, or "D2L," is the nerve center. I view it as the jumping-off point for all of your College Algebra activities. It's where non-urgent communications take place, on a day-to-day basis.

WebAssign Homework: Covers most of Chapters 1 - 5 and portions of Chapter 7, 8, and 9.

Features: Read It, Watch It, Ask Your Teacher, Practice Another Version.

After you've registered on WebAssign, access <https://www.webassign.net/> directly, by bookmarking it. (Click here to go to WebAssign Login). Bookmark this link, because you don't want to have to go to D2L every time you want to do homework. It loads slow and you don't need it, once you know where you're going.

RECOMMEND: Open WebAssign. Open 2 windows to harryzaims.com. Open the notes for the current homework section in one window. Open the list of videos in another window. Find what you're looking for in the notes. The notes tell you what # video you want.

Click Here to access harryzaims.com at <https://harryzaims.com/>

I've placed an archive of homework help on harryzaims.com. This is also where I place pretty much all resources, notes and videos that I make. Most of the resources, there, are pretty stable. When I add something cool, I'll give you a heads-up.

A good student, guided by the Course Schedule, will check in on D2L once or thrice per week, to make sure they didn't miss anything. This means accessing the Course Shell and checking your e-mail for anything from me.

I rarely pay attention to notifications, myself, but if you check your notifications (the little bell, like on YouTube), any announcements I make will show up. But just checking once or twice a week, you can scan the Announcements and see all the latest announcements.

If you check your e-mail once or twice a week, you'll receive all my e-mails in a reasonably timely fashion.

For NON-URGENT help, "Ask Your Teacher" on WebAssign and of course, sending me E-Mail through the Course Shell's Classlist work well. My response times are generally good, and I clear out ALL of your communications to me on WebAssign and E-Mail, daily, usually several times per day.

My Approach

Give you the resources you need and get out of your way, while standing by for instant service or as close to instant service as I can reasonably provide.

My Situation:

One of the reasons I'm working 100% remotely is for medical reasons. I have a relatively mild case of osteogenesis imperfecta, which means I was always just strong enough to hurt myself, if I wasn't careful or acted foolish.

Many decades of foolishness have me pretty house-bound, which I'm pretty adjusted to, but which is really beneficial for students. This ain't all bad. I have a nice, 2-bedroom house with several outbuildings on 1 acre, close to town, but zoned for critters, if I want 'em. Beautiful lawn, huge garden spot, garage, small shop, big shop (Slab poured, Roof up, Waiting to wrap it), ... Life is good!

How My Situation Helps YOU:

I'm pretty much home, doing my thing, 24/7. I'm literally 5 minutes away from a ZOOM session if anybody needs me. This means I am pretty much available 24/7.

We can also set up ZOOM sessions by appointment, pretty much at your convenience, as my schedule is wide open. Just send me an e-mail ("Steve Mills") in Classlist.

970-290-0550 is the number to call! Any time! If you can't wait for me to get around to your request, don't hesitate to call!

This is very "generous," but I've learned that students have all different kinds of schedules, and that the better I do my job, the less "panic-help" students need.

I always feared that I might be overwhelmed, running things this way, but the on-demand help squares people away very quickly, and I'm like the lonely Maytag repair man from the old t.v. commercials, many years ago, just sitting by the phone, but no one calls...

I think it helps that I'm so annoying that calling me is a last resort, when nothing else is working. Maybe that's it! LOL!

Grading

WebAssign Homework: 20%: Register for WebAssign on Course Shell.

Written Homework: 20% (One assignment per week): See Assignments in Course Shell.

WebAssign Chapter Quizzes: 20%: One per chapter.

Written Midterm and Final Tests: 35%: These are in-person affairs. You will need to come to HORIZON HALL Room 107 on one of the scheduled days, of which there will be 2 for each test.

Your percent grade will therefore be calculated as follows:

$0.05 * \text{E-Mail Settings} + 0.2 * \text{WebAssign Homework} + 0.2 * \text{Written Homework} + 0.2 * \text{WebAssign Chapter Quizzes} + 0.35 * \text{Written Midterm and Final}$

E-mail Settings: 5%: See E-Mail Settings Video. Be sure to hit "Save" button after you check the box I require you to check. After that, stick to D2L Classlist for sending course-related e-mails to me.

Click here for link to "E-Mail Settings Instructions." Just be sure to hit "Save" after you check the box. I show the "Save" but I don't think I showed myself using it.