

Welcome!

This Hand-Out accompanies the [Fall, 2024 Orientation Video](#).

Learn to navigate to the [Course Shell \(https://online.aims.edu/d2l/home/183170\)](https://online.aims.edu/d2l/home/183170), and how to navigate on [D2L \(https://online.aims.edu/\)](https://online.aims.edu/), in general.

1. Main Navbar Links:

- a. Course Home – Jumping-off point.
- b. Assignments – 5 written assignments called Writing Projects.
  - i. [WP#0](#) – Do some Intermediate Algebra and work out the kinks on producing quality PDFs of your written work and uploading them to the D2L dropbox.
  - ii. [WP#1](#) – Quadratic Equations from Chapter 1.
  - iii. [WP#2](#) – Graphing from Chapter 2.
  - iv. [WP#3](#) – Theory and Graphing of Polynomial and Rational Functions from Chapter 3.
  - v. [WP#4](#) – Systems of Linear Equations from Chapter 5.
- c. Classlist – The tool for sending and receiving course-related e-mail communication.
  - i. [Tweak your e-mail settings on D2L](#). – All you have to do is find the e-mail settings (sprocket in top right of D2L e-mail tool) and check the “Include messages in replies” box. Then our e-mail conversations will always be complete (and you don’t have to remind me what the heck we were talking about!).

Using your D2L e-mail with the “online.aims.edu” domain will help me be better organized and more efficient, which means better service to you, when you have questions or need help. I’ll always know what course and section you’re in, so I can go right to the heart of your question/concern.

- d. Content – I don’t do as much with “Content” as some other instructors. But you can find links to the WebAssign Portal, Course Schedule, Syllabus, and other standard links, this first week of the semester, especially, but all semester for sending and receiving e-mail.

Day-to-day, you’ll be doing work and accessing information on other servers. I want you to be able to go straight to my private server and WebAssign without having to go through D2L every single time you just want to get some work done. This speeds up your work and increases reliability.

- e. [Course Schedule](#) – There’s another link to this in Course Information, but I think it’s handy to have at the top of your Course Shell.
- f. [Course Syllabus](#) – There’s another link to this in Course Information, but I think it’s handy to have at the top of your Course Shell.
- g. [harryzaims.com \(https://harryzaims.com/public\\_html/\)](https://harryzaims.com/public_html/) – This is where I house all the videos I made for the course (especially homework videos!). It’s set up so you can find what you’re looking for pretty quickly.

**Tweak your Email Settings – [Tweak your D2L settings](#) and use Classlist for course-related e-mails.**

**WebAssign Portal – Where you do your homework and remote tests.**

See “Course Information” module in “Content” on D2L. Use the link to “WebAssign Portal” to register for WebAssign. After you register, you don’t really need this link, but it should still send you where you want to go. I can’t give you the WebAssign Portal link for our class, here, because it’s embedded in the Course Shell. After that, you should be able to access WebAssign Homework by going directly to [WebAssign: https://www.webassign.net/](https://www.webassign.net/) directly, without wasting time logging in on D2L or depending on it just to do homework or take tests.

**Daily Routine – Doing Homework, Writing Projects (preferably after you’ve covered the topics in Homework), Other Test Prep...**

When you’re doing homework or working on Writing Projects, it’s wise to have a browser window open to the relevant resources on [harryzaims.com](http://harryzaims.com). There are extensive archives of notes and videos covering every type problem you will encounter on WebAssign. They’re not perfect, but it is really nice to be able to click on a video that shows me working my version of the exercise in question. It’s pretty easy to find what you’re looking for.

For example, suppose you’re stuck on Section 1.1, #9 on WebAssign. You should be able to surf to the [Section 1.1 Video and Notes](#) from the [Homework Videos page](#), which is found under [Quick Link to Videos](#) on [harryzaims.com](http://harryzaims.com). Try finding 1.1 #9 notes and video from [harryzaims.com](http://harryzaims.com). If you open 2 windows to [harryzaims.com](http://harryzaims.com), you can have the notes for the entire section in one window, and a listing of all the individual videos in the other.

There’s also help built into the WebAssign, itself, and some people use the built-in help more than my help. Some people slurp up every video I make. Whatever works best for the student is what I want the student to do. I also want the student to have as much on-demand help as possible.

**Gradebook** – I will send you a personalized grade report template like this one: [Grade Report Demo](#). You have to be able to open up a spreadsheet....

**Spreadsheet Access** – Some students will have Excel installed on their computer. If you’re having trouble loading the spreadsheet, you should be able to save it to your Google Drive and Open it up in your Google Workspace. These and other tools are available to all students at Aims with a computer, web browser, and Internet connection on the [Aims Student Tools and Resources Page](#). Scroll down to Google Drive and Google Workspace.

It’s a little bit clunky, compared to just having MS Office or Open Office installed on your computer, but you should be able to open your grade report, there, and even edit it, as you generate more Homework, Writing Project, and Test scores.

**General Philosophy for doing math – Write much. Think little. A small amount of progress every day is much better than trying to do all the work all at once.**