



## **Course Syllabus: Contemporary Mathematics and Co-requisite**

College of Mathematics  
MATH 1053-0053 Section 2R3  
Semester and Course dates

### **Contact Information**

Instructor: Jacob Mescher  
Office: BO 122Q  
Office hours: MWF: 8:00-9:00 10:00-11:00. Additional times may be requested via appointment.  
Office phone: (940) 397-4828  
E-mail: [Jacob.mescher@msutexas.edu](mailto:Jacob.mescher@msutexas.edu)

### **Course Description**

Math 1053 Description: A survey of the use of mathematics in the modern world. Topics include theory of elections and apportionment, division of power and assets, graphs and networks, schedules, surveys, statistics and data.

MATH 0053 description: This course supports students in developing skills, strategies, and reasoning needed to succeed in Contemporary Mathematics.

### **Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Required digital materials for this course are part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas. Students are charged for required course materials on their student account with the Business Office. Any students who wish to opt-out of the Program and purchase the required course materials on their own must follow the Opt-out instructions sent to students' official my.msutexas.edu email address after the first day of class. Please contact the MSU Bookstore if you have any questions about the opt-out process. You will be using MyLab Math and have access to a digital *Excursions in Modern Mathematics*, Tannenbaum 10th edition.

You should have a calculator that will add, subtract, multiply, divide and take square roots, and exponentiate. You will not need a graphing calculator, though you are welcome to use one. You are expected to bring your calculator to class each day. You may not use a phone or any device with internet access as a calculator during exams.

## **Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance**

Tutoring and Academics Support Program (TASP) offers learning center hours. TASP's Learning Center (TLC). Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning Center offers drop-in tutoring support for most general subject areas including but not limited to Writing, Math, Science, Psychology, History, and Foreign Languages. Students check in to work one-on-one with a tutor typically for an hour regarding specific concepts. To check the availability of tutors in a specific subject area, consult the tutoring link below. The Learning Center observes all campus holidays and closures.

## **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

## **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

## **Moffett Library**

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

## **Grading**

This course will be divided into three units, each unit worth one-third of the final grade. Each unit grade will be computed as a weighted average 20% Homework Assignments Average, 25% Quiz Assignments Average, and 55% Unit Exam. Your final grade will be based on the average of your three individual unit scores. The grade distribution will be no stricter than the following: A is 90%-100%, B is 80%-89%, C is 70-79%, D is 60-69%, and F is below 60%.

If the student passes Math 1053 (CM) with an A, B, C, or D, then the course grade for the developmental support (DS) course will be calculated as follows:  
$$DS = 25\%(\text{Attendance/Participation/In-class Activities}) + 75\%(\text{CM} + 10\%\text{Homework}).$$

If the student fails Math 1053, then the course grade for this class will be calculated using a weighted average 75% CM and 25% DS.

$$\text{AVERAGE} = (.75)(\text{CM}) + (.25)(\text{DS}) .$$

### **Homework**

The online homework for this course is via MyLab Math, which you can access through a link in D2L. Homework will be assigned using the MyLab system. Problems may be worked as many times as you like, so a near perfect homework score should be attainable. Homework for each chapter will be due each week as posted in the assignments calendar; you are encouraged to work on homework after each class period. After the unit exam related to a homework assignment, that homework score will be final.

### **Quizzes**

Quizzes will be given in MyLab Math online accessed through D2L over the course of the semester each Friday. No make-up quizzes will be given. A missed quiz will result in a grade of 0 on that quiz. Each Unit will allow 1 dropped quiz from quizzes taken within that Unit.

### **Exams**

There will be three in person exams on the following dates. Unit 1 Exam February 17<sup>th</sup>, Unit 2 Exam March 31<sup>st</sup>, Unit 3 Exam May 7<sup>th</sup>. Each exam is worth 55% of its respective unit average. Calculators will be allowed the exam will be last the duration of the class time.

### **Extra Credit**

Under the usual circumstances there will be no extra credit assignments due to the ability to score near perfect on homework assignments.

### **Late Work**

Homework assignments per unit may be turned late until that respective unit exam for a late penalty of 25%. Late quizzes are generally not accepted.

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

Under some circumstances Exams may be made up. Generally, this will require the student to provide reason of their missed exam to the Dean of Students and provide any required information they request. However, there is no guarantee exams will be excused.

## **Important Dates**

- Last day for term schedule changes: January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: February 16<sup>th</sup>. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"April 29<sup>th</sup>. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

## **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

## **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. There will be a physical sign in sheet to initial in class each day of the course. Attendance is part of the 25% weighted average for the Math 0053 course grade in addition to participation and in class activities. This includes staying on task and doing scholarly work during class. Using phones or devices for personal recreation will invalidate any attendance taken for the day even if the attendance sheet is initialed. Severe cases of excessive absences may result in a drop from the course. There will be a written warning prior to being dropped from the class.

## **Online Computer Requirements**

This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete your homework and quiz assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. Assignments are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline. There are many places to access your homework. Our online homework can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. If you have technical difficulties with the website, there is also a student tech support from Pearson available to you. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot

work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### **Instructor Class Policies**

Students are expected to attend each class and remain on task during lectures. When emailing the instructor students must record the first part of the subject line as MATH 1053 or some emails may not be found. In any event where the course needs to meet online as a university mandated transition we would retain the normal in-person course meeting times.

### **Change of Schedule**

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

### **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### **College Policies**

#### *Campus Carry Rules/Policies*

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

*Assessment of Core Objectives:* Samples of students’ work from embedded exam questions will be used in the assessment of critical thinking, communications skills, and empirical and quantitative skills. One core objective will be assessed in each of the three exams given over the semester.

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

**\*Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Topics**

We may be covering topics from the following list.

- Voting Methods
- Division of Assets
- Apportionment
- Applications using graphs
- Financial Mathematics
- Surveys, Statistics, and Studies
- Data Presentation and measurement
- Probability and Enumeration

### **Course Schedule:**

Below is a tentative schedule for each unit of the course.

UNIT	Relevant Unit Chapters	Exam Date
Unit 1 1/20 to 2/17	Chapters 1,3 and 4.	February 17 <sup>th</sup>
Unit 2 2/18 to 3/31	Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8	March 31 <sup>st</sup>
Unit 3 4/1 to 5/07	Chapters 10, 14, 15, and 16	May 7 <sup>th</sup>