Course Syllabus: College Algebra - online
MATH 1233 Section X21 - Spring Semester 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Marina Lynn Jones
Office: Dillard 211B
Office phone : N/A – do not leave voicemail
E-mail : marina.jones@msutexas.edu

General Information

Course Description

This course consists of an in-depth study of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions and their graphs, equations and inequalities, as well as systems of equations. A graphing calculator is recommended but is not required.

Prerequisites

No college level course work is required before beginning this course. However, students must meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative. MATH 1033 with a grade of C or better, math THEA score of 270, or satisfactory score on placement exam.

Textbook and Instructional Materials

Textbook and Online Homework System

We will be using the mathematics platform ALEKS throughout the semester. A link to ALEKS is accessible through D2L, or you can log onto ALEKS directly. Please refer to the ALEKS Environment course documents in D2L for an overview of the ALEKS system. Within the online environment, you will also have access to the textbook for this course: College Algebra, 2nd Ed. (McGraw-Hill) by Miller and Gerken.

Inclusive Access

Required digital materials (textbook and MyLab Access) for this course are part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas. Your course materials will be available on the first day of class through D2L. The charges for this material have been posted to your student account at the Business Office. If you wish to opt out of this program, then you will need to purchase these digital materials on your own at a higher cost and with delayed availability. I strongly recommend that you do not "opt out" of this program, but instructions for doing so will be sent to your my.msutexas.edu email address on the second day of class.

Communication

Emails

The best way to reach me is by email (marina.jones@msutexas.edu). I will generally respond to email within 24 to 48 hours. Any communication not in writing or by email should be considered unofficial. You are responsible for all email communications that I send to the class through D2L. Be sure to read how to re-configure your D2L email to be delivered to your preferred email. This information is included under Content on our D2L homepage.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

This course will use D2L extensively in order to distribute information. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program and to regularly check all posted information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. You are responsible for all information contained in the D2L News posts. Downloading the Brightspace Pulse app is also recommended. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Course Modality

Description of Course

This course is entirely **asynchronous** and **online**. This means that you will be expected to set your own appropriate schedule to accomplish your goals in this course. Your progress for much of this course will be decided through Mastery-Based Assessment. Mastery-Based Assessment gives you (the student) the opportunity to learn from mistakes without punishment, gives you autonomy in your success in this course. Much of this will be unproctored and formative.

However, because it is vital to the integrity of this course, there will be one heavily weighted final assessment that is proctored to verify your progress was your own, without the use of outside sources or other aiding materials. Good performance on this assessment is essential to receiving a high grade in this course. It is helpful to think of the final assessment as something akin to an ACT or SAT, where the test grade is highly important, but the preparation leading up to the final assessment will undoubtedly improve your test grade.

Objectives

Your primary objective will be to learn correct use of mathematical terminology and notation. You will also be learning problem solving skills from the point of view of a mathematician. If your major is in STEM, then this course is required in order for you to move forward in your degree plan.

Demonstrate and apply knowledge of properties of functions, including domain and range, operations, compositions, and inverses. Recognize and apply polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions and solve related equations. Apply graphing techniques. Evaluate all roots of higher degree polynomial and rational functions. Recognize, solve and apply systems of linear equations.

Expectations

Since this is an online course, there are no class meeting to attend. However, ALEKS will track the time you spend working on this course. You should expect to spend somewhere between 4 and 8 hours online each week.

Success in this course normally requires work done at a steady pace with at least some work every day or two. Ignoring the course for an uninterrupted week or more will result in time spent relearning material you have forgotten.

You are expected to log into ALEKS at least three days per week to work on course content; log into D2L at least two days per week to view updates and class information; ask specific, thoughtful questions (through email, office hours, D2L, or ALEKS); put forth your best effort every day.

Grading Policies

Your course grade will be computed based on the following categories:

Category	Percentage
Module grades (4 @ 7.5% ea)	30%
Weekly topic goals (best 10)	10%
Graded Knowledge Check 1	15%
Graded Knowledge Check 2	15%
Final Knowledge Check	30%

The four modules that make up the content covered in the ALEKS course are: 1) Course Readiness and Review of Prerequisites, 2) Equations and Inequalities, 3) Functions and Relations, and 4) Other Functions.

Your final letter grade will be based on the percentage obtained and your grade on the Final Knowledge Check.

Grade	Overall Percentage		Final Knowledge Check Score
A	At least 90%	AND	At least 80%
B	80—90%	AND	At least 70%
C	70—80%	AND	At least 60%
D	60—70%	AND	At least 50%
F	Less than 60%	n/a	n/a

Your highest 10 topic goal scores will contribute to your final grade. The four module grades will be determined at the time of the Final Knowledge Check and will be affected by your performance on that assessment. Final grades will not be rounded up and no extra credit will be given.

Exam Schedule

The two Graded Knowledge Checks and the Proctored Final Knowledge Check will be taken online through ALEKS. Each of these Knowledge Checks should take one to two hours. Exceeding two hours on one of these Knowledge Checks might invoke a penalty to your grade. The dates for these exams are in the following table.

Knowledge Check	Earliest Start Time	Latest End Time
Graded Knowledge Check 1	Mon Feb 23	Sun March 1
Graded Knowledge Check 2	Mon Apr 6	Sun Apr 12
Proctored Final Knowledge Check	Mon May 11	***Thur May 14**

Proctored Final Knowledge Check ("final exam")

Options for taking the final exam in this course may include:

(1) in person on the MSU Main Campus

(2) through an online proctoring platform such as ProctorU

(3) through another approved military or university testing center

Taking the final assessment on the MSU Campus is free, however there may be a fee for the other services that you will need to pay directly to ProctorU or third-party testing center. I will post detailed information on our D2L course homepage regarding the final exam as we near the end of the semester.

Inclement Weather Policy

Since this is a fully-online course, campus closures due to inclement weather generally do not affect any published due dates and the course will continue without interruptions. In the event of a prolonged campus closure, check our D2L course homepage for specific and up-to-date information regarding this policy.

Changes in the course syllabus, policies and procedures, assignments, tests, schedule, and proctoring requirements may be made at the sole discretion of the instructor.

University Policies regarding Academic Misconduct

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. Students should refer to the current MSU Student Handbook and Activities Calendar and the MSU Undergraduate Bulletin for university policies on academic dishonesty, class attendance, student rights & activities.

Grade Appeals and Academic Honesty Checklists

These checklists are available on the MCOSME website and provide information on the process for grade appeals or appeals of academic honesty sanctions. The Grade Appeal Checklist provides the timeline for appealing from the instructor to the next in line (dean of the college). The Academic Honesty Checklist describes the timeline for appealing from the instructor to the next in line (chair of department) and who must be notified of academic honesty infractions.

University Policies & Services

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 Clark Student Center, Room 168, (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.

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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 as 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 Policies

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 Safety / Emergency Procedures. 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."*

Student Handbook

Make sure you are familiar with the university policies as described in the student handbook. This course will abide by all university policies.