



Beginning Algebra

Math 0003-X20

Spring 2026

Course Essential Information

Instructor: Marina Lynn Jones

Office: Dillard 211B Office phone: N/A - do not leave a voicemail

E-mail: marina.jones@msutexas.edu

Virtual Office Hours/Hours of Availability: Specific times will be determined after surveying class. I am usually able to reply to all emails within 24 hours (up to 48 hours in some cases), except on weekends. Please note that emails received after 5:00pm should not expect a reply before 1:00pm the next weekday. All course times/due dates are Central time zone.

Course Objective/Description:

This course is designed to include topics in elementary algebra which will prepare each student for the co-requisite mathematics course that will fulfill the core requirements of the student's degree plan. The course topics include pre-algebra review, solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations in two variables, functions and relations, laws of exponents, and polynomial arithmetic including factoring polynomials. Students must earn a "C" or better in this course in order to advance to the next required mathematics course.

Textbook & Instructional Materials: MyLabMath (MML) an online course management program from Pearson Publishing is REQUIRED and is described in more detail below. A e-copy of the textbook is included in the purchase of this program so it is not necessary to purchase a hardcopy of the textbook: Beginning & Intermediate Algebra by Lial/Hornsby/McGinnis, 8th ed.

Additional Required Materials/Expenses: Access to a laptop or desktop computer with a webcam and internet connection is required. A simple four-function calculator. A spiral notebook or binder is needed to keep all work organized and accessible. The Respondus Lockdown Browser is used throughout the semester for assessments and is available as a free download through MSU's website. The fee-per-use service ProctorU may be utilized for the required comprehensive final exam and, if so, this will incur an additional expense.

Online Course Requirements

Computer Requirements: This class requires you to have access to a computer with a webcam and a strong reliable internet connection to complete assignments and to take proctored assessments. Chromebooks, tablets, and mobile devices will NOT satisfy the technical specifications for required proctored assessments. Issues with your personal computer or internet access cannot be used as an excuse for missing any deadlines!

Assignments are due by the published due date, and technical difficulties with a personal computer will not be considered sufficient reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments. If you have technical difficulties using a personal computer, first

check your computer security settings, your pop-up settings, and/or try a different browser. If you continue to have technical difficulties, then you will need to contact either the MSU D2L support page or Pearson's MML customer technical support – not the instructor – or, if possible, use one of the many computer labs on campus to access MML or D2L.

Desire2Learn: D2L is an integral part of this course. This class has a designated course homepage on D2L which you are required to log into every weekday Monday through Friday until further notice. The Daily News announcements posted on the course's D2L homepage serve as a fundamental and primary source of communication from the instructor to the class. You are responsible for all information posted in the Daily News announcements on our D2L homepage. The link to our specific MML course is located on the D2L homepage.

** MyMathLab is a REQUIRED portion of this course.**

MyMathLab (MML): This online course management program from Pearson Publishing is used for most assessments in the course. A specific MML course has been created for your class and is linked from the D2L course. Required digital materials for this course are part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas. Students are charged for these required course materials on their student account with the Business Office. Opt-out instructions are sent via email on the first day of class. Any student who wishes to opt-out of the Program and purchase the required course materials on their own must do so prior to the date indicated in that email. Please contact the MSU Bookstore if you have any questions about the opt-out process. If you opt-out of this program, then you will need to purchase MML, either from the campus bookstore or directly online from the publisher. **I strongly recommend that you do not opt-out of this program** as doing so will incur added expense and will significantly delay your access to course materials. When using MML for the first time in this course, you will need to run a browser check.

Help/Tutoring Resources: In general, I endeavor to reply to all emails received in a timely manner and within 24 hours; however, emails received after 5:00pm weekdays or over the weekend should not expect a reply before 1:00pm on the next weekday. An excellent resource for local students is MSU's Tutoring & Academic Support (TASP) center. The TASP office is located on the first floor of Moffett Library. TASP offers tutoring both by appointment and on a walk-in basis for students on campus. Check out TASP on the MSU website under Academics for additional information. The most accessible and convenient source of help is provided by the various options available 24/7 within MyLabMath.

Important distinction: Using help options available on MML or searching for helpful videos on YouTube or forming study groups or reaching out to TASP are all commendable and acceptable ways to seek out supplemental assistance with the material covered in the class. Copying the work of another student or getting homework answers directly off the internet or using ChatGPT, PhotoMath, or Snapchat (or something similar) to generate work that is not your own – none of these are acceptable in this class and each one represents academic misconduct in violation of the student conduct code. Mathematics is not a spectator sport; it requires active participation in order to master specific problem-solving skills. The purpose of assignments is to learn these skills - not to copy off the internet in order to get a grade that has no relevance to your level of mastery. A student with very high homework and online quiz grades who cannot replicate those results in person creates doubt as to possible academic misconduct. Consequences for misconduct range from receiving a zero on an assignment to being dropped from the course with an F to even more serious repercussions for repeated infractions.

Attendance and Participation Policies

Attendance/Participation

Attendance is an essential component of this course and is required. If this were a traditional face-to-face class, the attendance policy for Math 0003 would state: If you are absent from more than four classes, you may receive a grade of "F" for excessive absences and lack of participation. In this online course, daily attendance, at a minimum level, corresponds to logging into the D2L course homepage and reading the Daily News post every weekday Monday – Friday. This daily login serves the same purpose as taking attendance in a traditional class. Online attendance expands to include participation in required activities such as discussion forums, specific check-in activities, adhering to communication requests, and completing homework assignments in a timely manner.

Excused or Unexcused Absences

This policy will be interpreted in accordance with the attendance requirements stated above. Absences are not categorized as excused or unexcused. All absences from class will be counted as official absences except authorized absences as defined in the Student Handbook. If you miss class due to hospitalization or a death in your family, you should notify the Dean of Students immediately. Absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the Athletic Director and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor to make up all work missed during an authorized absence.

Drop Policies

Instructor Drops: Instructors may drop a student from class for disruptive conduct which in an online class could include inappropriate comments made via email or discussion forums, consistently failing to complete class assignments, as well as excessive absences as outlined above. A student dropped for any of these reasons will receive a course grade of "F".

Student Drops: The first day that a student can drop or withdraw from a developmental class such as this and receive a "W" is by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026. Students receiving financial aid should contact the financial aid office before initiating a student drop. The last date to drop any course is Monday, April 29, 2026.

Course Structure and Schedule

This online course includes the full scope and material of an in-person Beginning Algebra course. This is not an open-ended unstructured online course; rather, the scheduled coursework is designed to be completed in a sequential manner. As such, there are many required due dates throughout the duration of the semester and thus the work cannot be completed in one intense short interval at the very last minute. The course content consists of four units of study. Each unit will consist of assignments, quizzes, and a unit test. The schedule of individual due dates will be communicated via D2L and MML. There is a pronounced structure of prerequisites as you progress through MML in each unit: homework > quiz > homework > quiz > unit test. This progression through the MML coursework has built-in minimum grade requirements in order to help increase student success.

Course Components

D2L Assignments/Assessments

There are various graded activities that are only accessed through D2L; examples include all required discussions and all tests. Individual D2L log-in activity is required and will be closely

monitored. Any D2L-generated grades will be manually added to your MML gradebook so that all course grades will be located in one place. The full D2L gradebook is not utilized in this course.

MML Homework

A MML online homework assignment has been created for each textbook section included in the course. You are required to keep your assignments organized in a spiral notebook (or loose-leaf binder) in which you will write out the step-by-step work needed to solve each problem. You may be asked to present evidence of your work during "spot checks", tutoring sessions, or as documentation. MML assignments are set up to allow you multiple opportunities to get credit for each problem and thus attain a very good homework grade. There are numerous and varied supplemental media resources provided as part of MML. Even though these items are not always specifically required for completion of an assignment, be aware that these types of resources are available to you as additional tools to aid in your understanding of the material.

Forward progress requirement: You must make at least a 60% (lowest passing grade) on each homework assignment in order to continue to the next assignment or quiz and maintain forward progress in the course. Allow yourself time to take advantage of the numerous help options on MML in order to maintain forward progression.

Homework Due Dates: Each MML assignment will have a specified due date – both date and time of day. After this due date, the assignment will still be accessible but will incur a late penalty and a 10% deduction in the grade. The late penalty will only apply to those problems completed after the due date. If the assignment was not started before the due date, it will show as "past due". This "past due" designation on the MML assignment list acts like a warning signal that you are falling behind the schedule needed to maintain progress and be prepared for assessments. The assignment will remain available in late "past due" mode until the night before the unit test over the included material. After the unit test, the assignment can no longer be completed and all "past due" assignments will automatically be updated to zeroes in the MML gradebook.

MML Quizzes

Short quizzes are also included as part of the course work grade generated in MML. Expect most MML quizzes to require video proctoring using Respondus Monitor – detailed information regarding this will be posted in the D2L Daily News. A quiz cannot be opened and attempted until after the pertinent homework assignments are completed successfully. Unlike the homework assignments, you only get one opportunity to answer each question correctly.

Students are allowed two attempts at each quiz. At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz score will be dropped before computing the final course grade.

Quiz Due Dates: This semester, I am going to treat quiz dates in the same manner as assignment dates. If the quiz is not completed by its specified due date, then it will go into late "past due" mode and incur a 10% late penalty, but still be accessible to be worked and to earn a quiz grade. Hopefully, this will help you maintain forward progression. Tentative quiz due dates are as follows: 1/29, 2/4, 3/10, 2/19, 2/27, 3/20, 3/30, and 4/23. These dates are subject to change and any adjustments will be posted in the Daily News on the D2L course homepage.

Forward progress requirement: You must make a minimum grade of 60% on a quiz in order to continue to the next assignment listed on MML and maintain forward progress in the course.

D2L Unit Tests

There are four unit tests, each worth 100 points. The four units include: 1) prerequisite review and linear equations and inequalities in one variable, 2) linear equations in two variables and graphing straight lines, 3) laws of exponents and polynomial arithmetic, and 4) factoring polynomials and solving equations using factoring. All tests in the course will be administered online through D2L, not MML, and will require video-proctoring utilizing a webcam and Respondus Lockdown Browser & Monitor. Each test will be available all day on the scheduled test date(s) in order to accommodate students with varying schedule restrictions. Specific information will be communicated in advance via the Daily News posts.

Comprehensive Final Exam

The final exam is required for course completion and is taken on D2L. It is comprehensive and worth 200 points. It must be proctored and it may utilize the fee-based ProctorU service if needed to ensure exam integrity. There is no makeup available for the final exam.

Test Dates

The four unit tests are tentatively scheduled for February 12, March 5, March 31, and April 28. The final exam for this online Math 0003 class is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2026. This is not the same date as the final exam for in-person Math 0003 classes.

Grading/Evaluation Policies

Grade Computation

There will be four unit tests, a comprehensive final exam, and a coursework grade which will be generated from all required assignments and quizzes. This semester the maximum number of total points possible is 700 points, and the point breakdown is as follows:

- Test #1 – 100 points
- Test #2 – 100 points
- Test #3 – 100 points
- Test #4 – 100 points
- Final exam – 200 points
- Assignments, including MML homework and D2L required participation items – 50 points
- Quizzes, including MML and designated D2L items – 50 points

The final course grade is determined by the earned percentage of possible points. The point range for each letter grade is as follows: 630-700 points earns an A, 560-629 points earns a B, 490-559 points earns a C, 420-489 points earns a D, and below 420 points earns an F.

Exception to the above point breakdown: In general, the course grade cannot be more than one letter grade higher than the grade earned on the comprehensive final exam.

Gradebook

Be aware that the overall average shown in the MML gradebook is a running average of completed work and can change dramatically as quiz and test scores are added into the gradebook. The full D2L gradebook is not utilized in this class; instead, all D2L-generated grades will be added into the MML gradebook as off-line entries.

Make-up Policy

Make-up tests are generally not allowed, so a missed test will result in a grade of "0". Per the instructor's discretion, a make-up test may be considered only in exceptional situations and only with timely, preferably pre-test, communication from the student. In extenuating circumstances that include prompt communication by the student, it may be possible to replace the zero on one missed test with the grade earned on the comprehensive final exam up to a maximum grade of 70%. This is at the instructor's discretion and is determined on a case-by-case basis. Make-up quizzes will not be given; a missed due date, for any reason, for a quiz will result in an automatic grade of "0" on the quiz. There is no make-up option for the final exam.

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.

Email

D2L: I will be communicating via D2L email so be sure to re-configure your D2L settings using your preferred email address.

MSU: Effective January 1, 2024, all official university correspondence will go to your **@my.msutexas.edu** email address rather than to the preferred email address you may have listed in Banner/WebWorld.

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

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."](#)