



***Course Syllabus: Contemporary Mathematics**

College of Mathematics, Science and Engineering

MATH 1053 Section 2R2 Bolin Hall Room 316

SPRING 2026

***The Math 0053 corequisite has a separate syllabus. It has a different grading system that depends on the Math 1053 grade.**

***Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Tim Fosnaugh

Office: Bolin 122H

Office hours: Daily 1pm – 3 pm

Office phone: (940) 397-4193

E-mail(preferred contact): *<mailto:timothy.fosnaugh@msutexas.edu>

***Course Description**

A survey of the use of Mathematics in the modern world. Topics include the theory of elections and apportionment, graphs and networks, the mathematics of finance, probability and statistics.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to choose and analyze mathematical models to solve problems from real-world settings, including, but not limited to, personal finance, civic engagement, and planning and logistics;
2. Apply mathematical ideas of fairness to assess methods of group choice and fair division;
3. Use mathematical formulas to analyze the value of loans and investments;
4. Demonstrate fundamental probability/counting techniques and apply those techniques to solve problems;
5. Interpret and analyze various representations of data.

***Textbook & Instructional Materials**

***Scientific Calculator:** You should bring a scientific calculator to class every day. Calculators are allowed on all quizzes and tests.

Text: *Excursions in Modern Mathematics*, Tannenbaum, 10th edition. This is included electronically in the Required digital materials. A paper copy of the text is not required.

***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. Opt-out instructions will be sent to students' official my.msutexas.edu email address on the second day of class. The price might save you a few dollars, but it introduces other problems. In addition, for those receiving financial aid, part of your first check will go to pay off the bookstore.

***Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance**

The Office of Tutoring & Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free tutoring to students that includes Contemporary Mathematics. It is located on the first floor of Moffett Library. It is on the right after you go through the entry gate. The hours for this semester are M-TR 1pm-9pm and Sunday 7pm-9pm. Here is the website: [msutexas.edu > academics > tasp](https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp)

***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 worth one-third of the final grade. In each unit, your grade will be computed as indicated in the next table.

Homework average	20%
Quiz average	20%
Unit Exam	60%

***The final grade will be based on the average of the three unit scores.**

*THERE IS NOT A FINAL EXAM.

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Percent
A	at least 90%
B	80–89%
C	70–79%
D	60–69%
F	Less than 6%

***Homework**

Homework will be assigned using the MyLab system. It must be accessed through D2L. I will provide a handout and in class demonstration. Some issues have been encountered with Macintosh computers. I will post some announcements on MyLab and use the email feature to communicate grade status information for each individual. I can't attach files in MyLab, so I will do that using class wide emails via D2L. Homework problems may be reworked as many times as you like, so a perfect homework score should be attainable. You will usually get three chances to get the answer correct. Simply select the "similar question" option if you want to improve your score or gain additional practice. Homework for each chapter will usually be due for 100% credit by class time two days after we finished talking about the section in class. Homework can be completed after the initial due date and before the unit exam for 75% credit. This reduction in credit only applies to work completed ***after** the full credit deadline. Problems or parts of problems submitted correctly by the 100% deadline will receive full credit. Sections completed less than two days before an exam will be due before the exam for 100% credit. After the unit exam, your homework score will be final.

***Quizzes**

At least eleven quizzes will be given in class over the course of the semester. To have a make-up quizzes you should definitely inform me on or before the day of the quiz. A missed quiz will result in a grade of 0 on that quiz. A quiz missed for a university excused absence can be dropped from the unit grade computation as long as paperwork is completed at least two class days before the absence. I usually have some graded in class activities. An activity can replace your worst quiz score.

***Exams**

The tentative schedule and content for the three unit exams are as follows:

Unit 1: Tuesday February 24

Chapters 1 through 4: Voting computation methods, Weighted voting, Fair division, Apportionment.

Unit 2: Wednesday April 1

Chapter 5, 6 and 7: Graphs and Networks

Unit 3: Thursday May 7

Chapters 10, 15, 16 and 17: Percent change, Simple Interest, Compound Interest, Descriptive Statistics, Probability and Statistics

Final Exam

Please note that there is no final exam for this course. The class will end after the third exam.

***Make Up Tests**

If you must miss an exam, please let me know at least one week ahead of the test date and arrange to take the test early. Accommodations with less notice will be made only in the case of serious and unforeseeable circumstances. Notice must always be given as soon as possible; accommodations will generally not be made if notice is not given by 5:00 PM on the day of the exam. Notification can be given by e-mail(preferred), a classmate or by phone.

***Extra Credit**

Extra credit is not possible.

***Late Work**

See the Homework section for details on homework assignments.

***Important Dates**

- Last day for term schedule changes: January 23.
- Deadline to file for graduation: February 16.
- First Day to drop a developmental class: March 23
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": April 29.
- 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. I will be sending group e-mails via D2L. 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. Students may choose to download the BrightSpace Pulse App to access D2L without going to the MSU homepage.

***Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences ***may** be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

***Online Computer Requirements**

It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests 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, tests, or discussion postings.*** 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 on campus with free computers. Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. 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](#).

Assessment of Core Objectives

Samples of students' work from embedded exam questions will be used in the assessment of critical thinking, communication skills, and empirical and quantitative skills. One core objective will be assessed in each of the three exams given over the semester.

Student Drops from Math 0053

Students will be allowed to withdraw from both Math 0053 and Math 1053 beginning March 23, 2026.

You may choose to drop MATH 1053 but not drop MATH 0053. You will be given your current grade in MATH 0053. You now have 2 options:

- a. At the end of the semester, I will record your MATH 0053 grade that you had when you withdrew from MATH 1053. You will not be required to attend any further classes. The next semester, you will repeat both co-requisite courses.
- b. You can request an ALEKS access code paid for by MCOSME to work through self-paced preparatory material for an algebra-based college level course. During the week of final exams, you will take a proctored in-person exam over developmental material or retest on the TSIA2 – math portion. If you are successful on the proctored assessment or TSIA2 retest, I will record a C for MATH 0053, and you will now be TSI complete. If you are not successful on the proctored assessment or TSIA2 retest, I will record your MATH 0053 grade that you had when you withdrew from MATH 1053, and you will have a \$25 charge added to your MSU account to repay MCOSME for the ALEKS access.

***Instructor Class Policies**

Be courteous. Do not be listening to music/playing games or watching videos not related to the class. Be punctual.

***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. There are two formulas (federal and state) used in determining the amount of the refund.

***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."](#)

***Grade Appeal Process**

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

***Course Schedule:**

I have a tentative daily schedule. It may vary due to the need to have a “lab” day where I demonstrate some of the more challenging homework problems or people can work on the homework. Laptops are permitted.

Unit 1: January 20 to February 5. All homework is already available on MyLabMath. The 100% due dates are also indicated. These are the Quiz dates.

Unit 2: February 6 to April 1. As above, all homework is already available on MyLabMath. The 100% due dates are also indicated. These are the Quiz dates.

Unit 3: April 6 to May 3. As above, all homework is already available on MyLabMath. The 100% due dates are also indicated. These are the Quiz dates.

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