

Math 0053: Contemporary Mathematics, Fall 2025

Instructor: Jacob Mescher
Office: Bolin 122Q
Office Hours: M,W,F 9:00-10:00 in Dillard 274F, and T, Th 8:00-9:30 in Dillard 274F
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Course Description: This course supports students in developing skills, strategies, and reasoning needed to succeed in Contemporary Mathematics. Topics include the theory of elections and apportionment, graphs and networks, and statistics.

TextBook and 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.

Participation: Students are required to participate in daily in-class activities such as handouts, group work, discussions, or presentations. A participation grade will be a portion of your final grade. In-class activities may be graded and may not be made up outside of class. Failure to participate in class will negatively affect your course grade. Use of cell phone during class will result in a participation grade of 0% for the day, cell phones should be off and put away during class.

Attendance: This class will meet in its regularly scheduled room all scheduled days. You are expected to attend every class. This includes arriving on time, staying until the end, and being prepared and engaged. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to talk to a classmate to find out what you missed. Attendance will be taken every day, and an attendance grade will be a portion of your final course grade. If you are absent from more than 4 classes (total for both Math 1053 and Math 0053), your attendance grade will be negatively affected. Starting with the fifth absence (total for both Math 1053 and Math 0053), points will be deducted from your attendance grade. If you are absent for more than 8 classes (total for both Math 1053 and Math 0053) you may be dropped from the class with a grade of F. If you are instructor-dropped from the class due to attendance, then you have one week to complete a drop from Math 1053 with a W. If you do not process a drop from Math 1053 within one week, then you will be dropped with an F from Math 1053 also.

Late Arrivals/Early Departure: Any late arrival to class may be counted as an absence at the instructor's discretion. Students who need to leave class prior to the dismissal of class should speak to the instructor beforehand in order to not incur an absence. It is disruptive to the classroom environment for students to leave class for personal reasons and then return to the classroom.

Excused/Unexcused Absences: Absences are generally 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).

Authorized Absences: Absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the Division Director or 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.

Grades: 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

$$AV = (.75)(CM) + (.25)(DS).$$

Academic Policies: 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 and activities.

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 <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>

College Policies: Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: Campus Carry Rules and Policies <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>

Notice: In any event where class needs to meet online we will meet at the regularly scheduled class time in an online platform. You will need a computer that can view the screenshare during the lessons.

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