

Course Syllabus: **Contemporary Math**
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering
Math 1053 Section 104
Fall 2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Dawn Slavens

Office: Pierce Hall, Room 122

Office hours: Mon. 2-3 PM; Tues. 2-4 PM; Wed. 11:10-11:40 AM;

Thurs. 2-3 PM & Friday 11:10-11:40 AM

Note: The above Office Hours are dedicated times I am available to meet with students. No appointment is needed to meet with me during my office hours. Simply come to my office and I will be there. For any student who has a conflict with above office hour times, other office hours are available by appointment. The best way to make an appointment is by sending me an email.

Office phone: (940) 397-4013

E-mail: dawn.slavens@msutexas.edu

Class Meeting Days, Times, Location

Tuesday, Thursday, 9:30 –10:50 am in Bolin 314

Course Description from MSU Catalog

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

Textbook & Instructional Materials

MyLab Math digital materials for the text *Excursions in Modern Mathematics*, tenth edition, by Tannenbaum are required for this course. These digital materials are part of the MSU Texas Access & Affordability Program. This program provides students access to the required course materials at a cost less than if purchased directly from the publisher. Students are charged for these required course materials on their student account with the Business Office. The charge will appear as: *COSM Electronic Courseware*.

There is an eBook within MyLab Math, so purchasing a print copy is optional.

Any student who wishes to opt-out of the Program and purchase the required course materials on their own may do so. The MSU Bookstore will send instructions for how to "opt-out" to your my.msutexas.edu email on the second day of class. If you do "opt-out", you will need to purchase access to course materials elsewhere at a price that Pearson and the MSU Bookstore guarantee will be more than the price charged when obtaining course materials through the MSU Texas Access & Affordability Program. Once you purchase access, you will then have to use the online "contact Pearson Support" service to get in contact with Pearson so that they can verify that you have purchased a valid access

code. If you do not contact Pearson so that they can verify that you have purchased a valid access code, there will be a point during the semester where you will lose access to your course materials. Since doing homework is a required part of this course, you will then have to either drop the course or work with Pearson to regain access to course materials in a timely manner. During the time that you do not have access to course materials, you will receive zeros on all assignments done within MyLab Math.

Calculator Requirement: Each student will need to have a scientific calculator. Bring your calculator with you to each class meeting. The TI 30X IIS is a scientific calculator that sells for about \$15 through Amazon. You are not allowed to use a calculator on a phone while in class.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

You will access MyLab Math through the MSU D2L program. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

On D2L, I will post the following:

- Announcements and occasional reminders.
- General exam review material.
- Your grades on exams and quizzes, as well as periodically your updated MyLab Math Homework Average.
- Attendance (specifically absences and tardies)
- Links to video lectures that I may assign you to watch.

I recommend the mobile Brightspace Pulse App. It will allow you to have quick access to anything posted within D2L.

Punctuality and Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Students should arrive to class on time and remain for the entire class period. Arriving late or leaving early may result in being counted as absent.

In particular, what you need to know about being absent from this class:

1. **A student who accumulates more than three unexcused or more than five total (excused and unexcused combined) absences may be instructor dropped from the class with a grade of WF or F. For each absence beyond two (unless the absence is excused) a student's grade will be lowered by 0.5% at the end of the semester.**

Bonus opportunity: Students with no absences or one excused absence will receive 3% added to their course average at the end of the semester. Students with two absences, with at least one of

the absences as excused, will receive 2% added to their average at the end of the semester. Students with more than two absences but less than six absences, with no more than one unexcused, will receive 1.5% added to their average at the end of the semester.

What is needed for Dr. Slavens to decide if an absence is excused?

Generally, documentation (such as a doctor’s note for an illness or emergent non-routine appointment, etc.) is needed. However, Dr. Slavens may excuse an absence in which the student provided to her timely notification (verbally or in writing) of an emergent situation that prevented them from attending class.

2. Since Dr. Slavens records attendance at the beginning of class, any student that arrives even a minute late may be counted absent. Any student arriving late should, at the end of the class period, make sure Dr. Slavens has not counted the student as absent. A student that arrives to class late four times will be counted as absent for each additional late arrival. Arriving more than 15 minutes late will automatically count as an absence.
3. Any student who leaves class early will be counted as absent. This may include when a student leaves in the middle of class and then later returns to class.
4. Any student physically present but not mentally present and engaged in class will be counted as absent.
5. Any student who violates the Cell Phone (Includes Electronic Devices and Earbuds) Policy will be counted as absent.
6. A student who is counted absent from class will receive a 0 on any work submitted during that day’s class.

Grading

Course Grade – Your grade will be based on Homework (done in MyLab Math), Quizzes, and Unit Exams. The table below shows the weight of each category for computing your course average as an overall percentage score.

Assignments	Weight
MyLab Math Homework	20%
Quizzes	20%
Unit Exams (20% each)	60%

The standard 90-80-70-60 grading scale will be used to assign course grades of A, B, C, D and F.

Note : There is no extra credit given in this course, except for the extra credit described in 1 of the Punctuality and Attendance Policy.

Taking Notes During Class

You are expected to take notes during every class lecture. These notes should be clear and legible so that you can refer to them while completing your homework or studying for the course. I reserve the right to ask students to upload a copy of their class notes to D2L at any time, which may be graded for completion and correctness.

Teaching and Learning During Inclement Weather Days

If campus closes due to inclement weather during a time when class is scheduled, expect me to post, by 11 AM within D2L, a video over the topics planned to be covered on the day of the closure. There will be no change in the class schedule, except for possibly a slight extension for completing homework.

Homework

MyLab Math is the homework platform used for this course. Homework sets will be assigned over each section of the book that is covered in class. There are due dates given within MyLab Math for each homework set. Each due date time is the start of class on the day the homework is due. Students may work on an assignment past the due date until the start of the next class, but there will be a 25% penalty on any problem completed during this late period.

Note: When you do not get full credit when working a problem within the homework, you will generally have the option of working on a similar problem. If you work the similar problem correctly, you will then receive credit for the problem. When you have this option, there are unlimited attempts at a similar problem. After completing a problem, look for "similar question."

Students are expected to keep a homework notebook and show work on problems that require a multistep process for solving. Within your homework notebook you should:

1. Label each assignment with the name of the assignment from within MyLab Math.
2. For each problem within the assignment that requires a multistep process for solving, number the problem in your homework notebook with the corresponding problem number from the MyLab Math assignment and then show your work for solving the problem. Calculations in your work can be done on a calculator.
3. *Bring your homework notebook with you to each class meeting and to any office hours you attend for the purpose of getting help with the homework.*

Math is learned through practice. Therefore, it is important that you create a weekly schedule for yourself that allows you adequate time to spend working assigned homework problems. Since this is a 3 credit-hour course, you should expect to spend 6-to-9 hours per week outside of class learning the content of this course. Most of those hours should be spent working assigned homework problems.

Any student with more than 7 incomplete assignments (grades under 50% will be classified as incomplete) may be instructor dropped from the course with a grade of F.

Quizzes

Frequent quizzes will be given in class. Problems on quizzes may be similar to those in homework assignments or in lectures. A student who arrives more than four minutes late will receive a zero on any quiz that was handed out at the beginning of class. A missed quiz will result in a grade of 0 on that quiz. Make-up quizzes will not be given for any reason, regardless of the reason for missing the quiz. If you are absent and if I have excused your absence, I may give you “no score” for the quiz instead of a score of 0.

Note:

- Any absence that is avoidable is generally not considered as an excused absence. Scheduling an appointment, such as a routine doctor’s appointment or an advising appointment, during class time does not constitute an excused absence, as this type of absence can be avoided by scheduling the appointment at another time.
- Excused absences generally require timely documentation of illness, personal emergency, or university approved activity.

Exams

There will be three unit-exams during the semester. Tentative exam dates are October 1st (Unit 1), October 31st (Unit 2), and December 10th (Unit 3) from 8 – 10 AM. The exam on December 10th is during the final exam period for this course.

Make-up exams are not generally given; however, such exams may be given for an absence that is a result of a documented medical or personal emergency. If an exam is going to be missed due to an approved university activity, the student should request to take the exam early. For missed exams, timely notification (for emergencies, on or before the scheduled day of the exam, and for approved university activities, a week prior to the scheduled day of the exam) is necessary to receive consideration to make up the exam or take the exam early. If a student misses an exam has not contacted me by 5:00 pm on the day of the exam, it will not be possible to make up the missed exam. No student will be allowed to make up more than one exam during the semester. No exams may be made up due to a student scheduling a vacation on a day when classes are in session.

Computer Requirements

This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete your homework assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have

access to) a working computer to complete assignments for 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. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble with MyLab Math. If you have technical difficulties with MyLab Math, there is a student tech support from Pearson available to you at <https://mlm.pearson.com/northamerica/mymathlab/students/support/index.html>

When you need help with this course, where can you go?

1. To your professor
 - See your professor's office hours on page one of this syllabus.
 - You should have with you both your notes and all related work that you have done on the topics you are seeking help with when attending office hours for the purpose of getting help with course content.
2. To the *Tutoring and Academic Support Program (TASP)*, located in Moffett Library. This program offers free additional tutoring in math as well as other courses. You can find out more about their services by visiting their office or searching *TASP* on the MSU website. Fall tutoring and Homework Help Lounge will begin offering services on Tuesday, Sept 3rd. Their services will end on Thursday, Dec 5th. The TASP Learning Center (TLC) does not offer tutoring during the week of final exams.

Academic Misconduct

Cheating on any work in this course will result in no credit for that work. Egregious or repeated incidents may result in more serious consequences, including a failing grade in the course, which may be permanent on your transcript. In this course, cheating is defined to be submitting work that is not your own. If you get help from someone with work that is done outside of class (i.e., homework), it is your responsibility to have a written record of the solution process for the problem in which you received help. You are also responsible for being able to explain work within the written solution process. Using AI or any online site for obtaining solutions to homework problems is cheating. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported as specified in the MSU student handbook. More information can be found at: [Student Handbook 2024-2025 \(msutexas.edu\)](https://msutexas.edu)

Note: A student with any acts of academic dishonesty is not eligible to receive any percentage bonuses obtained for good attendance (as described in the **Punctuality and Attendance Policy**) added to their course average at the end of the semester

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones are to be placed on silence or turned off, and placed on your tabletop in full site of Dr. Slavens, screen side down, at the beginning of class. The phone is to remain there until the end of class. If you do not want your phone on your table top, then it should be stored in a bag. Using your cell phone during class is not allowed. A student using their cell phone during class will have their phone placed in a "time out" bag for the duration of the class. Earbuds are to be removed from your ears and appropriately stored prior to the beginning of class. Other electronic devices must also be appropriately stored prior to the beginning of class. Students that are not compliant with this Cell Phone Policy may be referred to the Dean of Students Office and/or the student may be withdrawn from the class by the instructor.

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 an 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. More information can be found at: <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. More information can be found at: <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/>

Instructor Drop

The Student Handbook contains information on the Instructor Drop policy at Midwestern State University. Dr. Slavens reserves the right to drop a student from the class with a grade of WF or F for any reason described in the policy. The reasons within the policy include excessive absences, consistently failing to meet class assignments, indifferent attitude, and disruptive conduct. More information can be found at: [Student Handbook 2024-2025 \(msutexas.edu\)](https://msutexas.edu/student-handbook/2024-2025/)

General Classroom Guidelines

- (1) As written in the syllabus, all cell phones should be off/silent, and all cell phones should be placed face down on your table/desk in clear view of your professor, OR stored in a bag.
- (2) Students are expected to take notes during class lectures.
- (3) Students are expected to bring their calculator to each class meeting.
- (4) Electronic tablets may be used in class solely for the purpose of taking notes during class lectures. Using a tablet for any other purpose will result in the student being counted as absent and the student will no longer be allowed to have a tablet out during class for the purpose of taking notes.
- (5) Students are to remove any earbuds prior to the start of class. Violations will result in being counted as absent from class.
- (6) In class, students may not wear a hoodie or hat that covers their ears or eyes.
- (7) Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to stay for the entire class period. (It is disruptive to the rest of the class when someone leaves during class.)

Notice

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