

Course Syllabus: **Contemporary Math**  
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering  
Math 1053 Section 201  
Spring 2025

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Dawn Slavens

Office: Pierce Hall, Room 122

Office hours: Mon. 2-3 PM; Tues. 3-5 PM; Wed. 2-3 PM; Fri 11:10 AM-12 PM

Note: 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 or by talking with me after class and then sending a follow-up email with the day and time we discussed for the appointment.

Office phone: (940) 397-4013

E-mail: [dawn.slavens@msutexas.edu](mailto:dawn.slavens@msutexas.edu)

**Class Meeting Days, Times, Location**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00 –9:50 am in Dillard Building 345

**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 seven total (excused and unexcused combined) absences may be instructor dropped from the class with a grade of WF or F. Once a student has attained two absences (excused or unexcused), each additional unexcused absence will result in a 1% deduction to the student's semester course average.

### **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, within two business days of the absence, notification (verbally or in writing) of an emergent situation that prevented them from attending class, and for which the student explains what they will do to stay on track with course content.

2. A student who misses two consecutive class periods should send Dr. Slavens an email letting her know the reason for the extended absence. Further, the student may request in the email that Dr. Slavens send (via email) any handouts given in class during the days the student was absent.
3. Students are expected to arrive to class on-time and stay for the entire class meeting. Leaving in the middle of class to go to the restroom, take a phone call, etc., should be avoided except in a rare emergency. A student may be counted as absent for arriving to class late or leaving class early.
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. There is no extra credit given in this course.

### **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. Students that do not comply would be counted as absent since not taking notes indicates not being engaged in class.

## 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 Unit test day, 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

Quizzes will be announced and given in class over each chapter. In general, there will be one or two quizzes per chapter covered in the course. Problems on quizzes will be similar to those in homework assignments or in class lecture. 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. A student who arrives to class late and after a quiz has been distributed to the class may not be allowed to take the quiz and thus would receive a grade of zero on the quiz.

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 notification of illness, personal emergency, or university approved activity. Excused absences generally require documentation supporting the reason for the absence.

## Exams

There will be three unit-exams during the semester. Tentative exam dates (subject to change with prior notice) are February 26<sup>th</sup> (Unit 1), April 4<sup>th</sup> (Unit 2), and May 12<sup>th</sup> (Unit 3) from 8 – 10 AM. The exam on May 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Spring tutoring and Homework Help Lounge will begin offering services on Tuesday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. Their services will end on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. 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)

### **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 84<sup>th</sup> 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.