Math 1053 & 0053 Contemporary Mathematics Fall 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
Note: All course times/due dates are Central time zone.

Instructor Availability/Communication:
In-person office hours are tentatively scheduled for 3:00-4:30pm Mondays/Wednesdays and 3:30-4:30pm Tuesdays/Thursdays. Many questions outside of class can be answered via email. I am usually able to reply to all emails within 24 hours, but will sometimes wait until the next class meeting to respond if it would benefit the class as a whole. Always include your full name, the course name, and a subject line when emailing me. Please note that emails received after 5:00pm should not expect a reply before 1:00pm the next weekday. I do not reply to emails over the weekend or on holidays.

I will be supplementing classroom communications through News posts on our D2L course homepage and via D2L email. Be sure to re-configure your D2L email settings using your preferred email address during the first few days of class. Instructions for how to do this are included under Content on our D2L course homepage.

Course Description:
This course will introduce you to a variety of ways that non-algebra based mathematics is used in the modern world to solve real-world problems. Topics include the theory of elections and apportionment, graphs and networks, growth and symmetry, or statistics. These two co-requisite courses are taught as one continuous five-day-a-week class and are designed to provide supplemental instruction to students who are not TSI-exempt with the goal of creating success in the required college-level math course. You are earning six semester hours of credit and accomplishing two important goals simultaneously. Successful completion of Math 1053 will fulfill the core math requirement of the student's degree plan. Earning a "C" or better in Math 0053 will gain TSI-exempt status.

Course 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, civic engagement as well as planning and logistics; 2) apply mathematical ideas of fairness to assess methods of group choice and fair division; 3) demonstrate fundamental probability/counting techniques and apply those techniques to solve problems; 4) interpret and analyze various representations of data; and 5) recognize critical weaknesses or shortcomings in reported survey or case study results.

Instructional Materials and Requirements

Desire2Learn (D2L):
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. The Daily News announcements posted on the course's D2L homepage serve as a vital source of supplemental 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 MyLabMath course is located on the D2L homepage.

Textbook & Instructional Materials:
We will be using MyLabMath (MML) an online course management program from Pearson Publishing throughout the semester. MML is REQUIRED and is described in more detail below. When using MML for the first time in this course, you will need to run a browser check. An e-copy of the textbook is included in with this program so it is not necessary to purchase a hardcopy of the textbook: Excursions in Modern Mathematics, tenth edition, Peter Tannenbaum.

Additional Required Materials/Expenses:
Access to a laptop or desktop computer with a webcam and internet connection is required. A simple four-function calculator is strongly recommended; a more sophisticated calculator is not necessary but may be used. A spiral notebook or binder is needed to keep all work organized and accessible. The Respondus Lockdown Browser is used throughout the semester for any online assessments and is available as a free download through MSU's website. Pearson's native LockDown Browser will also be utilized and is available for free through MML.

MyMathLab (MML):
A specific MML course has been created and linked from our D2L course homepage. Please refer to the News announcements posted on D2L before trying to access MML. MML is where all homework assignments as well as various assessments will take place. As a required digital material for this course, MML is 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. Your course materials will be available on the first day of class through D2L. If you wish to opt-out of this program, then you will need to purchase MML on your own at a higher cost and with delayed availability. I strongly recommend that you do not opt-out of this program, but instructions for doing so will be sent to your my.msutexas.edu email address on the second day of class.

Course Expectations

Daily Expectations:
Class meets at 2:00-2:50pm on MWF and 2:00-3:20pm on TR in room DB 329. You are expected to attend all class meetings, be on time, and come prepared to work. Do not walk into class empty-handed. This means that you come to class with pencil/pen and your own paper to write on. Bring your calculator to class every day. You may not use your cell phone or any device with internet access as a calculator, and you may not share calculators. You are also expected to log into our D2L course homepage every weekday Monday through Friday to read the Daily News and receive online attendance credit.

Time Commitment:
Plan on spending 4 - 8 hours a week in addition to our regularly scheduled class meeting times. We will not be working on assignments during class; that is your responsibility outside of classroom hours. You should expect to be working on assignments outside of class daily or at the very least several times per week. You are expected to complete assignments by their published due dates and to maintain forward progress in the course.

Electronic Devices:
Use of computers is not allowed in the classroom. This includes laptops, cell phones, tablets, and other similar devices. Students using such devices may be asked to leave class. Under certain circumstances, an exception may be made, with prior permission, for handwriting notes on an iPad. If a cellphone, smartwatch, or similar device is visible or audible during a quiz or exam, you may receive a zero on that assessment.

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. 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. Issues with your personal computer or internet access cannot be used as an excuse for missing any deadlines! 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.

Help/Tutoring Resources:
Outside of office hours, an excellent resource for 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 help options available 24/7 within MyLabMath.

Important distinction regarding outside resources:
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 <u>not your own</u> – 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 or during video-proctoring 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, Participation, and Drop Policies

Attendance/Participation:
Attendance is an essential component of this course and is required. You are expected to attend every class. This includes arriving on time, staying until the end, bringing the necessary supplies, and being prepared and engaged. These two co-requisite classes are taught as one continuous course meeting every weekday and thus all course policies are stated with this understanding. The attendance policy for Math 1053/0053 states: If you are absent from more than four classes total, you may be dropped by the instructor with a grade of F (regardless of your grade average in the course). If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to talk to a classmate to find out what you missed.

An additional aspect of attendance in this hybrid class is the daily login to our D2L course homepage. Reading the Daily News posted there each weekday is an important digital component of your attendance and participation requirement.

Late Arrivals, Early Departures, and Disruptions:
Any late arrival to class may be counted as an absence at the instructor's discretion. Student who have an urgent need to leave class prior to the dismissal of class should speak to the instructor beforehand in order to not incur an absence. As much as possible, avoid leaving and entering the room during class as this causes a disruption in the learning environment. Make sure all electronic devices are silenced. Use of cell phones in class is not allowed.

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.

Student Drops:
If you wish to drop this course, you should first contact your instructor and your advisor. Students who have not met the readiness standards of the Texas Success Initiative must continue to attend class and may not drop this course prior to Monday, October 19, 2026. Students will not be allowed to drop only Math 0053 due to it being a requirement for enrollment in Math 1053 by students who are not TSI-complete. Students will be allowed to withdraw from both courses or possibly only Math 1053 with permission from both the instructor and the math department chair – more information regarding this option will be available as needed – but only after October 19. Students receiving financial aid should contact the financial aid office before initiating a student drop. The last date to drop any course is Monday, November 23, 2026.

Instructor Drops:
Respectful behavior in the classroom is required. Instructors may drop a student from class for disruptive conduct including cell phone use, consistently failing to come to class prepared, not completing class assignments, as well as excessive tardiness or excessive absences. Missing more than four classes or portions of classes is considered excessive. If you are

instructor-dropped before October 19, you will receive an F in both classes. However, if you are instructor-dropped from Math 0053 with an F due to any of these reasons after October 19, then you will be given one week in which 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 from Math 1053 with an F also.

Course Components

D2L Assignments/Discussions:
There are some graded activities such as discussion forums that are only accessed through D2L. 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 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.

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 25% 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:
There will be up to eleven short quizzes given during the semester either in class or online through MML. Each quiz will generally cover one chapter. Tentative quiz due dates are as follows: 9/4, 9/11, 9/24, 9/29, 10/9, 10/20, 10/23, 11/4, 11/11, 11/24 and 12/1. These dates are subject to change and any adjustments will be posted in the Daily News on the D2L course homepage. Expect all quizzes taken on MML to require video proctoring using the Pearson Lockdown Browser (LDB) and Respondus Monitor; detailed information regarding this will be posted in the D2L Daily News. Unlike the homework assignments, you only get one opportunity to answer each question correctly. Students are allowed two attempts at each MML quiz

No make-up quizzes will be given. A missed quiz, either in class or on MML, will result in an automatic grade of "0" on the quiz. A quiz that will be missed for an authorized university excused absence can be taken early as long as paperwork is completed and turned in at least two days before the expected absence. At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz score will be dropped before computing the final course grade

Unit Tests/Exams:
The three unit tests are tentatively scheduled for October 1, October 27, and December 3. There is no cumulative final exam in this class. At 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. If you know that you must miss an exam, please let me know at least two weeks 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 with documentation. Notice in these instances must always be given as soon as possible; accommodations will generally not be made if notice is not given by noon on the day of the exam.

Schedule of Assignments:
A day-by-day schedule of class topics and assignments is available on our D2L course homepage. The Unit 1 schedule of assignments is included at the end of this syllabus.

Grading/Evaluation Policies

Grade Computation:
This course consists of three units. You will receive a grade for each unit that will count as one-third of the final course grade. Each unit grade will be computed as follows: 20% Homework, 20% Quizzes, 60% Unit Exam.

Final Course Grade:
At the end of the semester, the three unit grades will be averaged to determine the course grade. Standard rounding of 0.5 and above to the next higher integer is used but there is no other rounding. No extra credit will be given. The standard 10-point scale is used as follows:

- A: at least 90%
- B: 80–89%
- C: 70–79%
- D: 60–69%
- F: Less than 60%

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 D2L gradebook is not utilized in this class; instead, all D2L-generated grades will be added into the MML gradebook as off-line entries.

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.

MSU Email:
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.

Course Changes:
Changes in the course syllabus, policies and procedures, assignments, tests, schedule, and proctoring requirements may be made at the discretion of the instructor. If possible, I will announce such changes in class or on D2L. You are responsible for knowing everything that I announce in class, post on D2L, or email to the class

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.

University Policies & Services

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, phone number (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.

Recording Classes:
Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission. Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs:
Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology,

textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@msutexas.edu.

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."*

Tobacco Policy:
Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

UNIT 1 SCHEDULE

DATE	**DAY**	**SECTION**	**ASSIGNMENTS – DUE *before 1:00pm* on due date**
Aug 24	Mon	Policies Intro to MML Course Structure D2L Discussion	READ THE D2L DAILY NEWS! • Use link on D2L homepage to register into MML. • First time linking to MML select "agree/opt-in". • Post introduction on Discussion Forum by 5pm Thurs 8/27
Aug 25	Tues	1.1	MML 1.1 – due Thurs 8/27
Aug 26	Wed	1.2	MML 1.2 – due Fri 8/28
Aug 27	Thurs	1.2 1.3	MML 1.3 – due Mon 8/31
Aug 28	Fri	1.4	MML 1.4 – due Tues 9/1
Aug 31	Mon	1.4 1.5	MML 1.5 – due Wed 9/2
Sep 1	Tues	1.5 1.6	MML 1.6 – due Thurs 9/3
Sep 2	Wed	1.6	Download Respondus Lockdown Browser + Monitor from D2L

DATE	DAY	SECTION	ASSIGNMENTS – DUE *before 1:00pm* on due date
Sep 3	Thurs	Review & prepare for first quiz Take Practice Quiz on MML	Read instructions on Daily News carefully. Requires Pearson LDB and Respondus + webcam. Download Respondus from D2L & LDB from Pearson.
Sep 4	Fri	Quiz #1 (online only)	Quiz #1: Chapter 1 Sections 1.1 – 1.6 (will be available during time frame 1:00 – 3:00pm) Use Practice Quiz on MML to check set-up first!
Sep 7	Mon	No Classes	n/a
Sep 8	Tues	2.1 2.2	MML 2.1 – due Wed 9/9
Sep 9	Wed	2.2	MML 2.2 – due Fri 9/11
Sep 10	Thurs	2.2	MML 2.2 – due Fri 9/11
Sep 11	Fri	Quiz #2 (online only)	Quiz #2: Chapter 2 Sections 2.1 – 2.2 (will be available during time frame 1:00 – 3:00pm) Use MML Practice Quiz to verify set-up, esp. if you missed 1st quiz!
Sep 14	Mon	3.1/3.2	MML 3.1/3.2 – due Wed 9/16
Sep 15	Tues	3.1/3.2 3.3	MML 3.1/3.2 – due Wed 9/16
Sep 16	Wed	3.3	MML 3.3 – due Fri 9/18
Sep 17	Thurs	online only today	D2L Discussion – read Daily News for instructions
Sep 18	Fri	3.5	MML 3.5 – due Wed 9/23
Sep 21	Mon	3.5	MML 3.5 – due Wed 9/23
Sep 22	Tues	3.5 3.6	MML 3.6 – due Thurs 9/24
Sep 23	Wed	3.6	MML 3.6 – due Thurs 9/24
Sep 24	Thurs	Quiz #3 4.1	Quiz #3: Chapter 3 Sections 3.1 - 3.3, 3.5 - 3.6
Sep 25	Fri	4.1 4.2	MML 4.1 – due Mon 9/28
Sep 28	Mon	4.2	MML 4.2 – due Tues 9/29
Sep 29	Tues	Quiz #4 Review	Quiz #4: Chapter 4 Sections 4.1 – 4.2
Sep 30	Wed	Review	*All Unit 1 homework closes at midnight on 9/30.*
Oct 1	Thurs	Unit Test #1	Unit Test #1 covers Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4
Oct 2	Fri	Start of Unit 2	Additional day-by-day schedule available on D2L after Test 1

ADDENDUM: MATH 0053 – FALL 2026
Developmental Supplement for Contemporary Mathematics

Course Description:
This course supports students in developing skills, strategies, and reasoning needed to succeed in Math 1053, Contemporary Mathematics.

Materials Needed:
Pearson's MyMathLab (MML) is required and a digital copy of the textbook is included. Students are required to organize all Math 0053 and Math 1053 materials (handouts, notes, etc) in a binder or notebook with pockets. A simple calculator (any kind except on cell phone) is necessary. *<u>These items plus paper and pencil must to be brought to class every day.</u>

Participation:
Students are required to participate in daily in-class activities such as handouts, quiz corrections, group work, discussions, or presentations. A participation grade will be a portion of your Math 0053 course grade. In-class activities cannot be made up outside of class. Failure to participate in class will negatively affect your course grade. Use of a cell phone during class will result in a participation grade of 0% for the day.

Attendance:
Attendance will be taken every day, and an attendance grade will be a portion of your final course grade in Math 0053. If you are absent from more than 2 classes, your attendance grade will be negatively affected. Starting with the third absence, points will be deducted from your attendance grade. Refer to the attendance policies in the Math 1053 syllabus.

Student Drops from Math 0053:
Students cannot drop only Math 0053 due to it being a requirement for enrollment in Math 1053 by students who are not TSI-complete. Students will be allowed to withdraw from both Math 0053 and Math 1053 but only after Monday, October 19. After that date, you may choose to drop Math 1053 but not Math 0053. This will result in two options:

1. At the end of the semester, I will record your Math 0053 grade that you had when you withdrew from 1053. You will not attend any further classes and will repeat both classes next semester.
2. You can request an ALEKS access code to work through self-paced preparatory material for an algebra-based college level course. During final exam week, you will take a proctored exam over developmental material or retest on the math portion of the TSI. If successful, you will earn a C in the course and now be TSI-complete.

Grades:
Grade points will be earned in three categories: attendance, participation, and in-class activities. In-class activities may include individual and group work, quizzes, or Math 1053 quiz corrections. The weight of each category is as follows: 25% Attendance, 25% Participation, 50% In-Class Activities. These earned grade points will result in the preliminary Development Support (DS) grade. This grade will be compared with the Math 1053 Contemporary Math course grade (CM) in order to determine the final course grade for this class. A weighted average (AV) will be calculated for each student and is equal to AV = (.75)(CM) + (.25)(DS). If the student fails Math 1053, then the course grade for this class will be AV. If the student passes Math 1053 (A, B, C, or D), then the course grade for this class will be the higher of AV or DS.