Course Syllabus: Contemporary Mathematics
College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering
MATH 1053 Section 204
Spring 2026

Contact Information

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Prerequisites

Math TSIA2 Assessment score of 950, Math TSIA2 Diagnostic score of 6, MATH 1003, math TSI Assessment score of 350, math THEA score of 270, math Accuplacer score of 90, or satisfactory score on placement exam.

Course Description

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

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Apply the language and notation of sets.
2. Determine the validity of an argument or statement and provide mathematical evidence.
3. Solve problems in mathematics of finance.
4. Demonstrate fundamental probability/counting techniques and apply those techniques to solve problems.
5. Interpret and analyze various representations of data.

6. Demonstrate the ability to choose and analyze mathematical models to solve problems from real-world settings, including, but not limited to, personal finance, health literacy, and civic engagement.

Assessment of Core Objectives

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

Course Materials – Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

This course will use D2L to distribute information. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program and to regularly check posted information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. On D2L, I will post any announcements and reminders that I feel will be helpful as we go through the semester. I will also post grades within D2L.

Textbook & Online Homework System

You will do all of your homework in **MyLabMath** for the textbook Excursions in Modern Mathematics, by Tannenbaum 10th edition.

Courseware Access

Required digital materials (textbook and MyLabMath Access) for this course are part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas. Your course materials will be available on the first day of class through D2L. The charges for this material have been posted to your student account at the Business Office. If you want to "opt out" of this program and the cost savings, you will receive the "opt out" instructions as you register for MyLabMath. If you choose to "opt out", it is your responsibility to contact Pearson for instructions on registering for MyLabMath, and you will be without access to homework for up to a week.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact the MSU Bookstore (940) 397-4303.

Calculators

You should have a scientific calculator. You will not need a graphing calculator, though you are welcome to use one. You are expected to bring your calculator to class each day.

You may not use a phone or any device with internet access as a calculator on *quizzes or *tests. You may not share calculators.

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 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. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!** There are many places to access your homework! Our online homework 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 tech support from Pearson available to you.

Coursework and Grading – 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 follows:

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Category	Percentage
Homework	20%
Quizzes	20%
Unit Exam	53%
Attendance	7%
Total	100%

Your final grade will be based on the *__AVERAGE__ of your three unit scores:

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

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

Coursework

Table 1: List of Topics

Chapter	Topics
Chapter 1	The Mathematics of Elections: The Paradoxes of Democracy
Chapter 2	The Mathematics of Power: Weighted Voting
Chapter 3	The Mathematics of Sharing: Fair-Division Games
Chapter 4	The Mathematics of Apportionment: Making the Rounds
Chapter 5	The Mathematics of Getting Around: Euler Paths and Circuits
Chapter 6	The Mathematics of Touring: Traveling Salesman Problems
Chapter 7	The Mathematics of Networks: The Cost of Being Connected
Chapter 10	Financial Mathematics: Money Matters
Chapter 15	Graphs, Charts, and Numbers: The Data Shows and Tell
Chapter 16	Probabilities, Odds, and Expectations: Measuring Uncertainty and Risk
Chapter 17	The Mathematics of Normality: The Call of the Bell

Homework

Homework will be assigned using the MyLab system. Homework will be assigned daily over the material that is covered in class. Problems may be worked as many times as you like, so a perfect homework score should be attainable.

- **Homework for each chapter will be due for 100% credit on the day of the chapter quiz**; you are encouraged to work on homework after each class period.
- Homework can be completed **after the due date and before the unit exam for 75% credit** (25% deduction).
- *After the unit exam, your homework score for that unit will be final.*

Homework is accessed through D2L by clicking on the MyLabMath Course Home link on the D2L homepage for Math 1053.

Quizzes

Eleven quizzes will be given in class over the course of the semester. Make-up quizzes will only be given if a student can take the quiz before it is given in class. 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.

Exam

There will be three unit exams during the semester. The ***tentative** dates for these exams are in the following table.

Exam	Date
Unit 1 Exam	Wednesday, Feb 25
Unit 2 Exam	Wednesday, April 1
Unit 3 Exam	Friday, May 8

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.
*___There is No final exam for this course.___

Attendance

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 3 classes, your attendance grade will be negatively affected. ***Starting with the fourth absence, 5 points will be deducted from your attendance grade.**

If you are absent for more than 8 classes, you may be dropped from the class with a grade of F.

If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to talk to a classmate to find out what you missed.

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, or dismissal from your academic program. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.
[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Changes to Syllabus

Some portions of this syllabus may alter during the semester. I will announce changes by email through the D2L email system. You are responsible for knowing everything I email to your D2L email address.

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."]()*

Weather-Related Class Cancellations

In the event of weather-related campus closures, this fully online course may continue as scheduled. Any changes to course activities, deadlines, or expectations will be communicated via D2L announcements.