

Course Syllabus: **College Algebra**  
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering  
Math 1233 Section 1R2 and Math 0233 Section 1R2  
FALL 2021

Contact Information

Instructor: Jacob Mescher  
Office: BO 118K  
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8-9, 10-11am Tuesday and Thursday by  
appointment only  
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Course Description

Equations, inequalities, polynomials, rational expressions, exponents, logarithms, radicals, functions, graphs. (This course is designed for students planning to take additional mathematics.)

Class Meeting Days, Times, Location

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:00 am – 11:50 am, in BO 312  
**and**  
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm in BO 312

Textbook & Instructional Materials

**Required:** MyMathLab for the text College Algebra with Intermediate Algebra, first edition, by Beecher, Penna, Johnson and Bittinger. 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 do so prior to (09/7/21). Opt-out instructions are 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.

Additional Information: There is an eBook within MyMathLab, so purchasing a print copy is optional.

Calculator Requirement: You must have a scientific calculator. Bring your calculator with you to class daily. Note that you may not be able to use your calculator on some tests/quizzes.

Face Covering and other COVID-19 related Policies

Students are **encouraged** to wear a mask/face covering while in this classroom. You are also expected to self-screen yourself for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to campus each day. If you are concerned that you have COVID-19 symptoms or have had close exposure to COVID-19, self-isolate and follow the instructions for reporting at <https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/index.php> . It is also important to email your

professor and keep them informed. For required quarantine or self-isolation, your professor will email a copy of class notes.

#### Grading

Course Grade – Your grade will be based on Homework (done in MyMathLab), Quizzes (in class or within MyMathLab or within D2L), and Exams. Grades for Math 1233 (College Algebra) will be calculated using the following weights. The standard 90-80-70-60 grading scale will be used to assign course grades.

	Math 1233
Adjusted Homework Average	5%
Quizzes	15%
Exam 1	13%
Exam 2	13%
Exam 3	17%
Exam 4	17%
Final Exam (1233)	20%

At the end of the semester, the course grade for math 0233 (Developmental Support) will be computed using the following formula.

Math 0233 grade = max(midterm grade, Math 1233 grade + 10% of the adjusted homework average).

\*\*Note that there is no extra credit given in these courses.

#### Taking Notes During Class

You are expected to take notes during every classlecture, or if lecture is given through videos, then while watching the video lectures. 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. A notebook or binder should be used to keep your notes organized.

#### Homework and Adjusted Homework Average

Homework will be assigned daily over the material that is covered in class or through videos posted in D2L. Homework will be completed within MyMathLab. Due dates will be assigned and will be included with each assignment within MyMathLab.

Your adjusted homework average will be computed using the following formula.

Homework = min(MML Homework average, 125% of quiz average).

**\*\*Any student who fails to complete 7 or more homework assignments may be dropped from both Math 0233 and Math 1233 with grades of F.**

#### Late Homework

There are due dates given within MyMathLab for each assignment. Each due date time is 11:59 pm on the day the homework assignment is due. Students may work on an assignment past the due date for two additional days, but there will be a 25% penalty on any problem completed during this late period. Problems within a homework assignment that are completed before the time the assignment is due are awarded full credit. Once an assignment has passed its final due date, you may access it through the MyMathLab gradebook and work on problems within the assignment without changing your grade on the assignment.

### Quizzes

Quizzes will be given frequently at least one each week on paper during class. The quizzes will be short, and there will be a time limit on each quiz. Make-up quizzes will not be given.

The first quiz will cover material from the syllabus. A student who fails to take this quiz will receive a 0 for that quiz.

I will drop the lowest three quiz scores at the end of the semester. However, I will not drop any zeros given for academic dishonesty or for failure to take the syllabus quiz.

### Exam Dates

The tentative exam dates are as follows:

Exam 1: Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Exam 2: Thursday, October 7, 2021

Exam 3: Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Exam 4: Thursday, December 2, 2021

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 1:00-3:00pm

### Make Up Exams

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. Once graded exams have been returned to the class, which usually occurs during the class meeting following the day of the exam, it will no longer be possible to make up a missed exam. No student will be allowed to make up more than one exam during the semester.

### Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

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 may post links to math videos that I assign you to watch. I will also post grades within D2L. Students are encouraged to download the BrightSpace Pulse App to access D2L without going to the MSU homepage.

### Student Initiated Drop from Math 0233 and Math 1233

Students who are enrolled in Math 0233 because they are not TSI-complete in mathematics are not allowed to drop either course until October 18, 2021. Further, the last day to drop any course on campus is Monday, October 25, 2021, by 4 pm. October 18 through October 25, you have two options for dropping, as described below.

- (1) You may drop both Math 0233 and Math 1233 with a W.
- (2) You may choose to drop MATH 1233 but not drop MATH 0233. Your Math 0233 grade will be given as your **current course average in MATH 1233 as of Test 2**. You now have 2 options:
  - a. At the end of the semester, I will record your MATH 0233 grade as your average in MATH 1233 as of test 2. You will not be required to attend any

further classes. The next semester, you will repeat both co-requisite courses.

- b. You can request an ALEKS access code paid for by MCOSME to work through self-paced preparatory material for an algebra based college level course. During the week of final exams, you will take a proctored in-person exam over developmental material or retest on the TSIA2 – math portion. If you are successful on the proctored assessment or TSIA2 retest, I will record a C for MATH 0233, and you will now be TSI complete. If you are not successful on the proctored assessment or TSIA2 retest, I will record your MATH 0233 grade as your average in MATH 1233 as of test 2, and you will have a \$25 charge added to your MSU account to repay MCOSME for the ALEKS access.

#### How to become TSI complete Algebra Based

Students who complete Math 0233 with a C or better will be TSI-complete Algebra-based at end of the fall semester. Credits earned for Math 0233 do not count as hours towards graduation. Math 1233, College Algebra, is a college-level core math course. Passing Math 1233 will satisfy the university's core math requirement. Earning a C or better is required to enroll in any math course in which College Algebra is a prerequisite.

Note: A student that does not attain TSI-complete status in mathematics will be required to enroll in a core math course along with its developmental support course until such status is attained.

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

1. To your professor's office Bolin 118K.
  - You can attend virtual office hours hosted by Mr. Mescher. Information on how to attend virtual office hours is in the newsfeed within D2L. If you do come to my office in person, please be respectful and wear a mask.
  - You should have with you both your notes and all of the related work that you have done over the topics you are seeking help with.
  
2. The *Tutoring and Academic Support Program (TASP)*, located in Moffett Library, offers 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. They offer tutoring Monday through Thursday 11:00am-6:00pm and Sunday 2:00pm-9:00pm. They also offer a Homework Help Lounge on Sunday-Thursday 2-9pm where you can work on math and get assistance from tutors as needed.

#### Academic Misconduct Policy

All work that you do that contributes to your course grade must be your own work. Any evidence that you submitted work that is not your own is considered an act of academic

dishonesty. An act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the university and will result in one of the following academic sanctions:

- Receiving a 0 on the homework, quiz, or exam.
- Receiving a 0 for the entire quiz grade for the semester (15%) or the entire adjusted homework score for the semester (5%).
- Receiving an F in MATH 0233 and/or MATH 1233.
- Receiving an F in MATH 0233 and/or MATH 1233 that will remain permanently on your transcript and within your MSU GPA.

On homework, you may get assistance from others, but you are responsible for understanding what you submit to be graded, and further, no two students are ever to turn in work that appears to be identical. Teachers can detect when a student is copying homework from someone else in the class. Never let someone borrow your work. If you want to help someone understand how to work a problem, talk to them and give them advice or pointers, but never give them your completed work. In addition, copying solutions from online resources is considered cheating. The university's academic dishonesty policy can be found at

<https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>

#### Cell Phone Policy

Please turn these off or place on silent prior to the beginning of class. All cell phones must be put away or placed face down on the desk/table in front of you. Use of a cell phone or any other electronic device (including earbuds) during class may result in the student's dismissal from class for the remainder of the period, in which case the student is counted absent and any graded work turned in on that day will receive a grade of zero. If the student is allowed to remain in class, the instructors may confiscate the cell phone for the duration of the class. Continued violation of the no electronics use policy may result in a referral to the Dean of Students and/or the student may be withdrawn from the class by the instructor. Using a cell phone during a test or quiz will result in one of the penalties listed under the academic misconduct policy given above.

#### Punctuality and Attendance

Midwestern State University's Attendance Policy, which is contained in the MSU Student Handbook, states that students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Among other things, the policy covers the university's position on authorized absences, including who students should contact to inform faculty in cases of personal emergency or illness requiring hospitalization or prolonged absence. You may wish to review MSU's Class Attendance Policy within the Student Handbook.

Students should make every effort to arrive to class on time and remain for the entire class period. Arriving late and leaving early is a disruption to the instructors and to fellow students. Emergencies should not be regular occurrences. If you have a medical condition that warrants needing to leave class on a regular basis, please talk to the instructor and provide her with a doctor's note indicating such.

What you need to know about being absent from this class:

1. Any student who leaves class without the permission of the instructor is considered to be absent for the class period and any work submitted will not be graded.
2. Any student caught doing work for another class, or being physically present but not mentally present and engaged in class, will be asked to leave and will be counted absent.
3. A student who arrives more than ten minutes late is considered absent.
4. Use of a cell phone or any other electronic device during class may result in the student's dismissal from class for the remainder of the period, in which case the student is counted absent and any graded work turned in on that day will receive a grade of zero.
5. A student who accumulates six absences may be instructor dropped from both Math 0233 and Math 1233 with grades of F. In such cases, an email will be sent to the student using the student's email within D2L, notifying the student.
6. A student who is in required quarantine or self-isolation should email the professor to receive a copy of class notes.

#### Technology Requirements

Some quizzes and exams may be given online in this course. These quizzes and exams may be proctored. You are required to have access to technology that allows for online proctoring (such as the Respondus Monitoring and Lockdown Browser through D2L). You can find more information on these requirements on page 16 of the [MSU Texas Task Force to Return to Campus](#) document. In particular, you will need access to a computer with a webcam (not a Chromebook or a cell phone, ipads are compatible but not any other type of tablet) with the ability to download/use the appropriate D2L software.

#### 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](#).

#### 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. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#).