

Instructor: Mark Farris

e-mail: mark.farris@msutexas.edu

Phone: 940-642-3312

Office: BO113A

Textbook: College Algebra, 2nd Ed. (McGraw-Hill) by Miller and Gerken. The textbook along with and a significant amount of required course material are available through D2L. Required 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 1/22/2021. 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.

Objectives: Your primary objective will be to learn correct use of mathematical terminology and notation. You will also be learning problem solving skills from the point of view of a mathematician. A student who completes this course with a grade of C or better may take MATH1433-Plane Trigonometry.

Prerequisite: No College level coursework is required before beginning this course. However, students must meet the requirements of the [Texas Success Initiative](#).

Grading: Your grade will be based on 4 Chapter grades, 2 Midterm Graded Knowledge Checks, and a Proctored Final Knowledge Check. These items will be weighted like this:

4 Chapter grades @ 10% each 40%

1st Graded Knowledge Check 10%

2nd Graded Knowledge Check 10%

Proctored Final Knowledge Check 40%

Grades will be computed on the usual basis, 90% for an A, 80% for a B, etc. However, poor performance on the Final Knowledge Check could lower your course grade. You must score at least 80% on the final to receive a grade of A, 70% for a B, 60% for a C, and 50% for a D.

Proctored Final Knowledge Check: Your final exam in this course will be proctored using a proctor to be determined later in the semester. Although none of the earlier work in the semester will be proctored, overreliance on outside sources for assistance with coursework during the semester will revealed itself in your performance on the final exam.

Attendance: You should be working in the ALEKS online homework system during your daily class meetings at City View, but some work will need to be done outside of those 45-minute sessions. You will take several Knowledge Checks over the course of the semester. Knowledge Checks are designed to take about 1 hour. Any Knowledge Check needs to be completed in less than 2 hours. That means hour on the clock, not logged in hours. The number of Knowledge Checks you will take this semester depends on your progress. The most important ones to build into your schedule are the Initial Knowledge Check, which is described in the "Getting Started" file, and the three Knowledge Checks listed in the "Exam Schedule below.

ALEKS will track the time you spend working on this course. You should expect to spend somewhere between 6 and 9 hours online each week. **Only** the strongest students can get away with spending less than 6 hours per week. Weaker student may need 10 or more hours per week. Success in this course normally requires work done at a steady pace with at least some work every day or two. Ignoring the course for an uninterrupted week or more will result in time spent relearning material you have forgotten

Exam Schedule: The 2 Graded Knowledge Checks and the Proctored Final Knowledge Check will be taken online. Each of these Knowledge Checks should take about one to two hours. Exceeding two hours on one of these Knowledge Checks might invoke a penalty. The dates for these exams are in the following table.

<i>Knowledge Check</i>	<i>Earliest Start Time</i>	<i>Latest End Time</i>
Graded Knowledge Check 1	Mon Feb 15, 12:01AM	Thurs Feb 18, 11:59PM
Graded Knowledge Check 2	Mon Mar 29, 12:01AM	Thurs Apr 01, 11:59PM
Proctored Final Knowledge Check	Mon Apr 26, 12:01AM	Thurs Apr 29, 11:59PM

Expectations: I expect you to

- Log onto ALEKS at least 3 days per week and Log onto D2L at least twice each week
- use online time wisely
- ask specific, thoughtful questions (message through ALEKS or email mark.farris@msutexas.edu)
- put forth your best effort every day
- make at least a "C" in this class

Standard Syllabus Information: Students should refer to the current MSU Student Handbook for university policies on academic dishonesty, class attendance, student rights and activities.

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