Course Syllabus: Calculus I

McCoy College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering
Math 1634 Section 201
Spring 2026, Jan. 19 – May 14

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Dawn Slavens
Office: Bolin Science Hall - 122P

Office Hours (located in Bolin Science Hall – 122P):

- **Mondays:** 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM & 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- **Tuesdays & Thursdays:** 9:00 – 10:00 AM
- **Fridays:** 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Volunteer tutor for TASP (located on the first floor of the library)

- **Wednesdays:** 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

I am also available to meet outside these times by appointment. I am generally on campus between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please don't hesitate to schedule an appointment with me if you would like additional support with course content – I am here to help. Appointments can be made for an in-person meeting or a meeting through **Zoom**.

Students may schedule an appointment by:

- **Stopping by my office** (when I am not in class or in a meeting, I may be available to meet on the spot), or
- **Emailing me** to arrange a specific day and time to meet.

Office phone: (940) 397-4013
E-mail: dawn.slavens@msutexas.edu

Class Meeting Days, Times, Location

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.
Classroom: Bolin Science Hall - 142

Catalog Information

Description: Differentiation of functions of one variable with applications, integration including simple substitution and numerical evaluation, and applications of integration.

Prerequisite(s): Math 1433 or Math 1534 with a grade of C or better.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required textbook: Calculus, Early Transcendentals, 9th Edition, by Stewart, Clegg and Watson.

Additional Information: This course covers the content in Chapters 2–5 of the text. The content within Chapter 1 consists of prerequisite mathematics (content from College Algebra and Trigonometry, or Precalculus) for the study of calculus. Students are responsible for reviewing the content of Chapter 1 on their own.

Calculator Requirement: A non-CAS scientific calculator that does not give exact irrational outputs is recommended for this course. Certain quizzes and exams (or portions of exams) will be **required** to be completed either **without a calculator** or **without a graphing calculator**. A CAS calculator may not be used on any test or quiz. A non-CAS scientific calculator that gives exact irrational outputs may also be prohibited on an test. Any student that attempts to use a non-approved calculator on an assessment will receive a zero on the assessment. Further, additional penalties, as outlined under the Academic Misconduct Policy, may apply. A TI-30XIIS is an appropriate scientific calculator for this class and can be generally purchased for less than $20.

Punctuality and Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual attendance is expected. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Arriving late or leaving early may result in being counted as absent for that class session.

Absences

1. Limits and Consequences

- A student who accumulates **more than four unexcused** or **more than eight total absences** (excused and unexcused combined) may be instructor-dropped from the course with a grade of **WF or F**.
- After a student has accumulated **three total absences** (excused or unexcused), **each additional unexcused absence** will result in a **1% deduction** from the student's semester course average.

2. Excused Absences and Documentation

- The most effective way to ensure an absence is recorded as excused is to provide **timely, appropriate documentation**.

- Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to:
    - A doctor's note for a non-routine medical appointment or illness
    - A university-approved, signed letter or memo verifying participation in an athletic or academic event

- If documentation cannot be provided due to an emergent situation, the instructor may, at her discretion, excuse the absence provided that the student:
- 1. Notifies her via email as soon as is reasonably possible, but within two business days of the absence, of the reason for the absence, and

- 2. Completes all assigned homework covering the material from the missed class.
- **Note**: If a student has two consecutive absences and does not notify Dr. Slavens before the class meeting following the second absence, those absences will generally be recorded as **unexcused**.

Punctuality and Class Presence

3. Arrival, Departure, and Engagement

- Students are expected to arrive on time and remain for the entire class period.
- Leaving class during the session (e.g., for restroom breaks, phone calls, or other non-emergency reasons) should be avoided and is permitted only in rare emergencies.
- At the instructor's discretion, a student may be marked absent for arriving late, leaving early, or leaving and returning during the class period.
- Students who anticipate the need to arrive late or leave early should discuss this with Dr. Slavens in advance.

4. Active Participation

- Students are expected to be mentally present and actively engaged throughout the class session. This includes removing earbuds, headphones, and other headsets and refraining from working on assignments for other courses during the class.
- Failure to comply with these expectations—without instructor prompting—may result in the student being marked absent for that class period.

5. In-Class Work

- A student who is counted absent will receive a **zero** on any work completed or submitted during that class session.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. On D2L, I will post the following:

- Announcements and occasional reminders
- Links to occasional assigned video lectures
- Your grades on assessments
- Attendance (specifically absences and tardies)

I recommend the mobile Brightspace Pulse App. It will allow you to have quick access to anything posted within D2L.

Note Taking

Students are expected to take notes during class lectures. Good notes can be a helpful resource for you as you are working assigned homework problems and as you are preparing for quizzes and exams. When a portion of class lecture is given through videos (referred to as video supplements), while watching the videos you are expected to take good notes. I may collect any assigned video supplement lecture notes and use them as a basis for a graded assessment in the category titled Homework and Other Classwork.

Homework and Other Classwork

Online homework will be assigned for each section covered in the textbook. This homework will be completed using a **free online platform that includes built-in AI learning support**, with access to assignments provided through **D2L**. The **built-in AI learning support** is intended to provide accurate, personalized tutoring that coaches students through their math challenges to foster real learning.

In addition, homework problems will be assigned from the required textbook. Some of these assignments will be collected and graded. A general grading rubric for graded homework assignments will be provided.

The instructor reserves the right to **collect and grade student solutions** to assigned homework at any time **beginning two class periods after instruction on the relevant content has concluded**.

Important Note Regarding Academic Integrity

The use of any tool that generates complete or near-complete solutions - including fully worked steps, final numeric answers, or solutions substantially like assigned problems - constitutes unauthorized assistance. Academic misconduct penalties will apply if any work is submitted that is obtained through unauthorized assistance.

Homework and Solution Expectations

Answers to the odd-numbered exercises in the textbook are included at the back of the book. For each problem you solve, it is your responsibility to ensure that your solution process is correct. First, use critical thinking to check your answer on your own. If you are unable to verify your solution independently, you may then compare your answer with the one provided in the book.

If your solution does not match the book’s answer or cannot be confirmed by another method, review your work to identify and correct any mistakes. If you are unable to find the error on your own, seek assistance from the instructor, a tutor, or a classmate. After correcting your work, practice similar problems to build mastery.

Success in this course is not just about completing homework; it is about solving problems correctly and understanding the methods so you can apply them in a variety of situations.

A student solution manual is available at the reservation desk in Moffett Library for additional support.

The category **Homework and Other Classwork** in the **Grading** section below also includes any quizzes, group work, or other graded activities that may happen during class, including any quizzes administered through the online homework platform.

If a student misses class on a day of a quiz or a group work assignment, the student will receive a grade of zero on the missed assessment. If Dr. Slavens has excused the absence (see **Punctuality and Attendance Policy**) then the grade of zero will become a "no grade," which doesn't negatively impact a student's overall average. A student may not receive more than three "no grade" scores the semester.

Grading

Table 1: Weight allocated to each assessment

Assessment	Weight
Homework and Other Classwork	12%
Exam 1	12%
Exam 2	12%
Exam 3	14%
Exam 4	14%
Exam 5	14%
Cumulative Final Exam	22%

Table 2: Percentages for final grade

% of Total Points	Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Note: Students whose Online Homework Average is more than 20 percentage points higher than their test average may be required to submit written work for future online homework assignments and/or complete and submit additional problems from the textbook. All submitted work will be graded, and online homework scores may be adjusted based on the correctness and completeness of the submissions. This requirement will remain in effect until Dr. Slavens notifies the student that it is no longer necessary.

Homework Engagement Policy
Students who receive more than ten homework scores below 50% may be instructor-dropped from the course with a grade of WF or F. A homework score below 50% is generally interpreted as a lack of sufficient effort or engagement with the assignment.

If a student makes a good-faith attempt to complete *all* problems on a homework assignment but earns a score below 50%, the student is encouraged to meet with Dr. Slavens to discuss the assignment and underlying course content. Following this meeting, and based on Dr. Slavens' assessment of the student's understanding, the homework score may be adjusted to 50% or higher.

This opportunity is available only to students who demonstrate effort by completing the assignment while it is open and who meet with the instructor within one week of the assignment's original due date.

Exam Dates

Exam (tentative, but likely) dates:
Exam 1: February 6
Exam 2: March 3
Exam 3: March 31
Exam 4: April 21
Exam 5: May 7
Final Exam (not tentative): Wednesday, May 13th, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Make Up Exam Policy

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, three weekdays 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 one or two class meetings 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. No exams may be made up due to a student scheduling a vacation on a day when classes are in session.

Teaching and Learning During Inclement Weather Days

If class is cancelled due to a campus closure resulting from inclement weather, expect me to post within D2L, by 11 AM, 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 assigned homework.

Academic Misconduct Policy

All work that you submit for this course must be your own. Submitting work that has been generated, in whole or in part, by AI tools, websites, solution manuals, or any external sources–unless explicitly authorized-is a violation of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity are considered incidents of academic dishonesty.

Each incident of academic dishonesty will be reported to the university according to the university's *Academic Dishonesty Policy & Procedures* located in the student handbook.

In this course, the possible sanctions for an incident of academic dishonesty are:

- Receiving a zero on the homework, quiz, or exam.
- Receiving a zero for your entire Homework and Other Classwork portion of your grade (10%).
- Receiving an F in MATH 1634
- Receiving an F in MATH 1634 that will remain permanent on your transcript and within your MSU GPA.

Assessment of Core Objectives

Samples of students' work from embedded final exam questions will be used in the assessment of critical thinking, communications skills and empirical and quantitative skills.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Develop solutions for tangent and area problems using the concepts of limits, derivatives, and integrals.
2. Draw graphs of algebraic and transcendental functions considering limits, continuity, and differentiability at a point.
3. Determine whether a function is continuous and/or differentiable at a point using limits.
4. Use differentiation rules to differentiate algebraic and transcendental functions.
5. Identify appropriate calculus concepts and techniques to provide mathematical models of real-world situations and determine solutions to applied problems
6. Evaluate definite integrals using the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.
7. Articulate the relationship between derivatives and integrals using the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

Electronic Device Policy

Earbuds and other headsets are to be removed, and cell phones silenced and stored in a bag or placed on your tabletop with screen side down, at the beginning of class. Other electronic devices must also be appropriately stored prior to the start of class. A student with a cell phone or other device that is not appropriately stored, or a student with earbuds or a headset in or over their

ears, will be in noncompliance with this policy and will be counted absent on the day of noncompliance. Students that continue to be noncompliant with this policy may be referred to the Dean of Students Office and/or the student may be withdrawn from the class by the instructor.

Academic Support Resources

When you need help with this course, you are encouraged to use the following resources:

1. Your professor
    - Office hours are listed on page one of this syllabus.
    - When attending office hours for additional support with course content, you are expected to bring your class notes and all relevant work completed on the topics for which assistance is sought.
2. The *Tutoring and Academic Support Program* (*TASP*),
    - TASP is located on the first floor of Moffett Library and offers free tutoring in mathematics as well as other disciplines.
    - Additional information about services and schedules is available by visiting the TASP location or by searching "TASP" on the MSU website.
    - Tutoring services are available from January 26 through May 6.

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.

*__Notice:__ Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

The policies on the next page of this syllabus are included because they appear in the ADA syllabus shell provided by the university to instructors. They are separate from the course-specific policies established by the instructor and may not represent the full set of university policies. These policies, and others, can be found in the student handbook.

University Policies

Use of Tobacco Products

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. Information related to the Use of Tobacco Products policy is available in the Midwestern State University Operating Policy 74.08, Use of Tobacco Products.

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."*