

Course Syllabus: Structure of the Number System I  
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering  
Math 2033 Section 201  
Spring 2026, Jan. 19 – May 14

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](mailto:dawn.slavens@msutexas.edu)

**Class Meeting Days, Times, Location**

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Classroom: Bolin Science Hall – 143

**Catalog Information**

**Description:** Patterns and sequences, sets, the structure of various numerations systems, the four fundamental operations of arithmetic, integers, rational numbers, and elementary number theory. This course stresses conceptual understanding of mathematics through concrete examples, models, multiple representations of ideas and concepts, and processes of mathematical reasoning.

**Prerequisite(s):** Math 1233 with a grade of C or better.

## Instructional Materials

**Required Digital Course Material:** This course uses WebAssign for the text *Mathematical Practices, Mathematics for Teachers: Activities, Models, and Real-Life Examples*, by Larson and Silbey. This required digital material is accessed through D2L and is part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas.

Under this program, students are charged for required course materials through their student account with the Business Office. Students who wish to opt-out of the program and purchase the required digital course materials independently may do so prior to the opt-out deadline.

Opt-out instructions will be sent to your my.msutexas.edu email address on the second day of classes. This message will come from the MSU Bookstore. If you have questions about the program or the opt-out process, please contact the MSU Bookstore at (940) 397-4303.

**Note:** The text, in electronic format, is included within WebAssign.

**Calculator Policy:** If you choose to use a calculator, it must be non-graphing and non-CAS (non-Computer Algebra System). Students are required to pass an Arithmetic Proficiency Exam, completed without a calculator, before being permitted to use a calculator on an exam or quiz. The instructor reserves the right to require that all students complete some quizzes and portions of exams without a calculator.

**Additional Information:** Course topics correspond with Chapters 1 through 9 of the text.

## 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 video lectures that I may assign you to watch
- Your grades on assessments and assignments
- 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.

## **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 three unexcused** or **more than five 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 **two 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.

### Grading

The weights of various assessment categories used to calculate your overall course average are shown in Table 1. Your overall course average corresponds to a final course grade, as indicated in Table 2. Extra credit is not offered in this course.

Table 1: Weight allocated to each assessment

Assessment	Weight
Homework	6%
Quizzes	10%
Arithmetic Proficiency Exam	5%
Exam 1	14%
Exam 2	14%
Exam 3	14%
Exam 4	14%
Final Exam	23%

**Note:** Students are required to pass the Arithmetic Proficiency Exam, completed without a calculator, before being permitted to use a calculator on an exam or quiz. Please refer to the *Instructional Materials* section of this syllabus for the *Calculator Policy*.

Table 2: Percentages for final grade

% of Total Points	Grade
90-100	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
0-59.99	F

## 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 quiz grade.

## Homework

**WebAssign** is the homework platform used for this course. Homework sets will be assigned for each section of the textbook covered in class. Many problems will require you to **show your work** by uploading a photo or scan of your written solutions.

All uploaded work must follow the directions in each problem and will be **manually reviewed and graded by the instructor**. Although WebAssign may automatically assign full credit upon upload, each submission will be reviewed and the score adjusted as needed to reflect the **correctness and completeness** of the work.

Homework assignments outside of WebAssign may also be assigned. These assignments may include problems from the textbook or problems from a handout distributed during class.

Homework must be completed by the due date. Students are responsible for submitting all assignments on time. Students may request an extension on up to **three assignments** during the semester; granted extensions are typically for **48 hours** from the original due date. **Personal computer difficulties that prevent completing an assignment may be used as one of these extension requests.**

This class requires access to a computer with internet connectivity to complete homework assignments. Computers are available in campus buildings and at the Tutoring and Academic Success Center. If you experience technical difficulties with WebAssign, contact the instructor immediately.

### **Policy on Incomplete or Low-Scoring Assignments:**

Any student who **has seven (7) or more** homework assignments with a score below 50% may be dropped from Math 2033 with a grade of F. Any student who has three (3) or more assignments with a score below 50% will lose **1% from their course grade for each additional** assignment below 50%.

## Quizzes

Quizzes, both announced and unannounced, will be given frequently during class. You will be limited to fifteen or fewer minutes to complete them. Quiz questions resemble those in homework and class discussions.

A student who is not in the classroom within three minutes of the time a quiz is distributed will receive a zero on that quiz. Make-up quizzes will not be given. If an absence on the day of a quiz is excused, the student may receive a grade of "no score" rather than a zero. Excused absences require timely documentation of illness, personal emergency, or university approved activity. Scheduling appointments (such as routine medical appointments or appointments with your advisor) during class time does not constitute an excused absence.

## Arithmetic Proficiency Exam

This exam measures your basic arithmetic skills, which are essential for teaching elementary and middle school mathematics. You must score at least **80%** to receive credit; scores below 80% are recorded as zero. A set of practice problems for this exam will be provided.

The exam will be given once in class on **Feb. 4**. Students who do not pass must review missed problems with the instructor before retaking the exam. You may attempt the exam up to **three times**; retakes after the first attempt are done outside of class and must be scheduled with the instructor.

The deadline for passing the exam is **March 25**. Students must pass the exam before using a calculator on any exam or quiz. Two exams and multiple quizzes will occur before this deadline.

## Exam Dates

### **Exam (tentative, but likely) dates:**

Arithmetic Proficiency Exam: February 4

Exam 1: February 13

Exam 2: March 6

Exam 3: April 15

Exam 4: May 6

Cumulative Final Exam: Monday, May 11, 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.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.

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

Academic Dishonesty includes cheating, collusion (unauthorized collaboration between students to complete an assignment or assessment that is intended to be completed individually), 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).

In this class, 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 or Quiz portion of your grade (10%).
- Receiving an F in MATH 2033
- Receiving an F in MATH 2033 that will remain permanent on your transcript and within your MSU GPA.

### **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.

## **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 3 PM, 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.

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain and model the arithmetic operations for whole numbers and integers.
2. Explain and model computations with fractions, decimals, ratios, and percentages.
3. Describe and demonstrate how factors, multiples, and prime numbers are used to solve problems.
4. Apply problem solving skills to numerical applications.
5. Represent and describe relationships among sets using the appropriate mathematical terminology and notation.
6. Compare and contrast structures of numeration systems.

## **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.”](#)