

Course Syllabus: College Algebra  
Bolin 101  
MATH 1634 Section 102  
Fall Semester 2020

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Sarah Cobb

Office: Bolin 118F

Office hours (via Zoom):

Monday	08:00 – 8:50
Tuesday	10:30 – 11:50
Thursday	12:30 – 01:50
Friday	08:00 – 8:50
Other times by appointment	

Office phone: (940) 397-4441

E-mail: [sarah.cobb@msutexas.edu](mailto:sarah.cobb@msutexas.edu)

**Schedule**

Class meetings: Monday and Friday 10:00 AM—10:50 AM  
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 AM—10:20 AM

Tests: September 14, October 9, October 29, November 24

Final exam: Wednesday, December 9, 10:30 AM—12:30 PM

**Catalog Information**

Course Description

Differentiation of functions of one variable with applications, integration including simple substitution and numerical evaluation, and applications of integration. Each student must have a graphing calculator.

Prerequisites

MATH 1433 or MATH 1534 with grade of C or better.

Calculator

A graphing calculator is strongly recommended this class. You are free to use an online graphing calculator or a phone for in-class purposes, but if you want to use the calculator on tests, you will need a dedicated piece of hardware.

## **Course Modality**

### **Hybrid Class**

Due to constraints on physical space available in our assigned classroom, this course will be offered as a split-students course this semester. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled room most scheduled days, but only some of the students can be physically present every day. The course will be divided into two groups, with each group attending class every other day. Students not physically in class will join by Zoom. You will receive your group assignment after the first day of class. Students physically present in class will be seated according to a seating chart for contact-tracing purposes and will observe social distancing and sanitizing procedures as well as wearing face coverings.

### **Online Instruction**

For some parts of the semester all course meetings will be online only. This includes the first day, the last week of classes (beginning November 30), the final exam, test days, and times that the instructor is ill. Depending on the number of COVID-19 cases in the university and the surrounding community, the university may transition to online-only instruction at some point in the semester. The course will continue to meet over Zoom at our scheduled time, whenever possible.

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program and to regularly check posted information. D2L provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. Downloading the Brightspace Pulse app is also recommended. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

### **Office Hours**

Office hours are time that I have set aside to answer questions about the course or course material. I am happy to answer questions about homework problems, quizzes and tests, study practices, grades, and other topics. I will be active on Zoom during office hours and links will be accessible through D2L. Feel free to join the meeting. If it is impossible for you to attend scheduled office hours, email me to set up an appointment at another time.

## Textbook and Instructional Materials

### Textbook

*Calculus: Early Transcendentals*, ninth edition. James Stewart.

ISBN 978-1-337-61392-7 (hardbound version)

ISBN 978-0-357-02229-0 (loose-leaf version)

A digital version is also acceptable

Homework will be assigned regularly out of the textbook, so having the current edition is important.

Note that this text is also used for Calculus II and Calculus III at MSU, so if you intend to take either of those courses, buying temporary access probably will not save you money.

### Technology Requirements

Since this course will use a hybrid modality, you will need access to technology to enable this interaction. Please refer to MSU's [minimum hardware and software recommendations for students](#).

On days you are not physically present in class, you will need to be able to run Zoom. For exams, you will need a desktop or laptop with a Windows or Mac operating system. You will also need a functioning webcam.

Exams will use the Respondus Lockdown Browser with Respondus Monitor within D2L. This program will lock you out of using other applications and websites while taking an exam and will record you to ensure academic integrity. Before the first exam, a practice exam will be available to ensure that you are familiar with the technology. For these exam days, you should find a quiet and distraction free testing environment.

Chromebooks are not compatible with Respondus Lockdown Browser and are not sufficient for this course.

## **COVID-19 Safety**

### **Masks**

In accordance with [university policy](#), masks must always be worn in the classroom. Your mask must be cloth or paper and must completely cover your nose and mouth. A face shield is not an acceptable substitute for a mask. Your instructor may remove their mask while lecturing if they are a sufficient distance away from students.

### **Symptom Screening**

You should conduct a daily self-screening for symptoms of COVID-19 including a temperature check. [The MSU Safety App](#) includes a self-screening, or you can use the one available through the [CDC](#). If either check suggests that you not attend class, please attend via Zoom instead of in person. If you think you may have COVID-19, please contact local health care (the Vinson Health Center or your personal physician.)

## Academic Expectations

### Attendance

You are expected to attend class either in person or via Zoom every day. This includes arriving on time, staying to the end, participating in class, and behaving respectfully. If you must miss class, please consult a classmate to find out what you missed. Students who miss more than six classes or portions of classes may be dropped from the course with a grade of F.

### Grading

Assignments	Percentage
Homework	16%
Mastery-graded Testing	84%
Total	100%

Grade	Percentage
A	90.0 +
B	80.0 to 89.9
C	70.0 to 79.9
D	60.0 to 69.9
F	Less than 60

### Homework

Homework will be assigned once or twice a week. The assignment will be posted on D2L and you will turn in the assignment by uploading an image to D2L. You are encouraged to work the problems on paper and then scan them or take clear, well-lit photos. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work is legible. Make sure you start your homework several days before the due date so that you have time to consult with your classmates or your instructor if you have trouble with certain problems. No late homework will be accepted. Your lowest homework score for the semester will be dropped.

### Mastery-graded exams

This course will use a testing method called, "Mastery-Based Testing."

The course material has been divided into 17 main topics or concepts. Your test grade will be based on how many of those objectives you show mastery of. You will receive credit only for a fully correct solution to the problem, but you will have multiple attempts to display mastery.

There will be four Mastery Exams given on D2L throughout the semester. The primary source of extra attempts comes from the fact that test questions appear on every subsequent test. This means the tests get longer as the semester goes on, but you do not need to complete every question.

A list of test dates and topics covered is on the next page.

Exam	Topics Covered	Date
Test 1	1-5	September 14
Test 2	1-9	October 9
Test 3	1-13	October 29
Test 4	1-17	November 24
Final Exam	1-17	Wednesday, December 9

For each topic on an exam, you will receive a grade of M (mastered), P (progressing), U (unsatisfactory), or N (not attempted). Only a grade of M will receive credit for the topic.

After the first exam, there will also be weekly opportunities to attempt mastery of a single topic of your choice.

After the final exam, I will count the number of topics on which you have received a grade of M at any point during the semester. The first 11 will each contribute 6% to your final grade. Each topic mastered after the first 11 will contribute 3%.

There are several advantages to this grading scheme.

- Mastery of a topic counts the same no matter when it is achieved. A poor test performance can be made up later and a good test performance lessens pressure for the final. Some students may be able to skip the final altogether. No single event can significantly hurt your grade.
- This method emphasizes working problems in a fully correct way. It will help to focus your attention on the areas of your learning where you can improve most.
- The ability to attempt particular topics more than once means that you are able to work on growing your understanding throughout the semester. Test results will help you see where you need to improve rather than simply summing up your performance with a number.

There is one major disadvantage to this grading method: it's rather complicated. Please feel free to discuss your progress or this grading method with me at any time if you need clarification.

#### Makeup Exams

No accommodation for missed exams will be made except in extreme circumstances. A student who misses an exam for an unavoidable and documented reason can attempt the exam on the date of the next weekly mastery opportunity.

## General Policies

### Important Dates

Change of Schedule and Late Registration: August 24-26.  
Deadline to file for graduation: September 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" December 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Voids](#)

### Contact with me

I prefer to make all agreements through email. This makes a written record in which both parties can refer. Any communication not in writing or through email should be considered unofficial.

I will make an effort to respond to email in a timely manner. You can nearly always expect a response within one business day, and often much faster.

### Student Handbook

For information on Student Rights, the Student Honor Creed, Academic Advising, University Policies and Procedures, the Code of Student Conduct, and other pieces of information regarding your education, please refer to the [Student Handbook](#).

[Click here to enter text.](#)

### 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

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### Changes to Syllabus

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. When possible, changes will be announced in class and through D2L.