

Course Syllabus: College Algebra
Bolin 101
MATH 2033 Section 101
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

Schedule

Class meetings: Monday and Friday 12:00 PM—12:50 PM

Tests: September 18, October 12, November 4, December 2

Final exam: Due 5:30 PM, Wednesday, December 9

Catalog Information

Course Description

Patterns and sequences, sets, the structure of various numeration 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.

Prerequisites

MATH 1233 with a grade of C or better.

Calculator

Scientific or graphing calculators will be allowed on certain tests and quizzes. Make sure that you have a calculator and know how to use it. Calculators may not be allowed on certain assessments or parts of assessments.

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

Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers, ISBN 978-0-538-49363-5

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 |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Reading quizzes | 5% |
| Homework, quizzes, etc. | 15% |
| Exams (4) | 64% |
| Final exam | 16% |
| 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 |

Reading Quizzes

Prior to most class days, you will be assigned a short reading from the textbook. A brief quiz in D2L will assess your understanding of the material. The purpose of the reading quizzes is to give you an initial familiarity with the concepts, which will be expanded further during class time.

Content Quizzes

About once per week, a short quiz will be given over the course material. These quizzes will assess your knowledge of the material and your preparation for exams. Quizzes will generally be announced several days ahead of time, but the instructor may choose not to do so. Your lowest two quiz/assignment scores will be dropped.

Other Assignments

Other course work will be assigned periodically, either during or outside of class. These will mostly be brief assignments which will focus on clear communication. Late assignments will not be accepted. Your lowest two quiz/assignment scores will be dropped.

Exams

Four unit exams will be given during class time on September 18, October 12, November 4, December 2. The exams will be given over D2L and will require the use of Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor.

If you must miss an exam, please let me know at least one week ahead of the test date and arrange to take the test early. In the case of unexpected and unavoidable absences (such as hospitalization), you must let me know on the day of the test and provide documentation. In this case the exam must be made up within 48 hours and will be subject to a 10% grade penalty. In other circumstances, you will receive a zero on the exam.

Final Exam

Your final exam will consist of several short essay questions (a paragraph or two) asking you to reflect on your experiences in this class and with mathematics in general. It will be due at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, December 9. The questions will be provided several days ahead of the due date.

General Policies

Important Dates

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|---|--|
| Change of Schedule and Late Registration: | August 24-26. |
| Deadline to file for graduation: | September 28 th . |
| Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" | December 4 th . |
| 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.