

Math 1233-206: College Algebra
Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Cobb

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Office hours:

Monday: 9:00-9:50 AM, 2:00-2:50 PM

Tuesday: 8:30-9:20 AM

Thursday: 8:30—9:20 AM

Friday: 10:00—10:50 AM

Other times by appointment

Schedule

Lecture: TR, 2:00—3:20 PM, Bolin 209

Unit Exams: February 11, March 11, April 15 during class time

Final Exam: Wednesday, April 28, 1:00—3:00 PM, location to be announced

Catalog information

Course Description

Equations, inequalities, rational expressions, exponents, logarithms, radicals, functions, graphs, and systems of equations. A graphing calculator is recommended but is not required.

Prerequisites

MATH 1033 with a grade of C or better, math THEA score of 270, or satisfactory score on placement exam.

Course Materials

Textbook

Textbook and Online Homework System

College Algebra with Modeling and Visualization, 6th ed., by Rockswold. This book is available through the online homework system we will be using this semester. You are not required to have a physical copy of the textbook, as it will be included in the price for access to the online system.

Instructions for registering for MyLab can be found in the course information module of D2L.

Inclusive Access

Required digital 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 January 20, 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.

Calculators

You will need a scientific calculator for this class that will compute radicals, exponents, and logarithms. Make sure that you have a calculator, know how to use it, and make a habit of bringing it to class daily.

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.

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.)

Phase 3 Operations

Midwestern State University is currently operating with Phase 3 Covid restrictions, which means that most classes continue to meet in person with mask-wearing, social distancing, enhanced sanitation, and other restrictions. Worsening conditions could result in the university moving to Phase 2 restrictions, in which case this course will continue to meet at its scheduled time, but in a remote format using Zoom. If this becomes necessary, please monitor your D2L page and your campus email for communication with details.

Technology Requirements

This course is currently planned as a fully face-to-face class and has no specific technology requirements.

If you miss class, you will be able to view the course on Zoom. In the event that the Covid pandemic requires the university to move to remote learning, you will need to be able to run Zoom, Respondus Lockdown Browser, and Respondus Monitor. Respondus Monitor also requires a webcam.

Please refer to MSU's [minimum hardware and software recommendations for students](#) for suggested technology.

Coursework and Grading Grading

Your course grade will be computed based on the following categories:

Category	Points
Participation and Preparation	40
Quizzes	40
Homework	60
Unit Exams (3)	300
Final Project	60
Final Exam	150
Total Points	650

Your final letter grade will be based on the total number of points earned:

Grade	Percentage
A	At least 585
B	520-584
C	455-519
D	390—454
F	Less than 390

Participation

Active participation is an important part of this class. To achieve full points in participation you must attend class daily; arrive on time and stay until the end; arrive prepared with appropriate supplies (pen, notes, calculator); complete assigned preparation for class (this will usually involve watching videos, filling out guided notes, and taking a short quiz); and participate actively in class.

Homework

Homework will be assigned through the MyLab system, which can be accessed through D2L. Homework will generally be assigned after each class meeting and be due on Tuesday of the following week.

Even though our homework will be online, you are encouraged to write up your homework solutions. As you are writing up these problems, describe the steps out loud to yourself. Does it make sense? Are you confident on how you arrived at that answer?

Make sure you start your homework several days before the deadline so that you have time to consult with your classmates or your instructor if you have trouble with certain problems.

Late homework can be turned in late with a penalty to your grade. You cannot turn in late homework for full credit.

Quizzes

In this course, you will be assigned videos to watch between classes. After you watch the videos, there will be a short quiz through the MyLab link in D2L to assess your understanding of the videos. They will be very short and will cover basic material to ensure that you are prepared for the following class meeting. You are required to finish the quiz before 8:00 AM the day of class.

Tests

The unit exams for this class are February 11, March 11, April 15 during class time.

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.

For absences related to Covid isolation or quarantine, please contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange a late exam or remote administration of the exam.

Final Exam

The final exam for this course is Wednesday, April 28, 1:00—3:00 PM. It cannot be taken early or late for anything except an emergency. Please consult the finals schedule before planning end-of-semester travel, as scheduled travel is not an emergency and you will not be able to reschedule the exam.

Final Project

The final project will be due on Monday, April 26 at 5:00 PM. It will require you to apply mathematical skills learned in the course to a particular modeling problem. The project instructions will be released later in the semester.

Course Policies

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class, in person, if at all possible. This includes arriving on time; staying to the end; being prepared; participating in class; and behaving respectfully. If you must miss class, please consult a classmate to find out what you missed.

Class sessions will generally be available on Zoom through the links in D2L. If you cannot attend in person, you may join through Zoom. You should not attend class if you are feeling sick.

In the case of an official university-excused absence (for example, an athletic event or Covid-related quarantine or isolation) attendance over Zoom will count as attendance in class. For any other absence, attending on Zoom will not count as being present in class. Exceptions will be considered at the instructor's discretion for unavoidable absences lasting for more than one week.

Students who miss more than six classes or portions of classes for reasons other than university-excused absences may be dropped from the course with a grade of F.

Classroom Behavior

Respectful behavior in the classroom is required. Any student who is disruptive will be asked to leave class. As much as possible, please avoid talking with classmates and leaving or entering the room during class. Make sure all electronic devices are silenced. Use of cell phones in class is not allowed. Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times within academic buildings.

Electronic Devices

Use of computers is not allowed in the classroom. This includes laptops, cell phones, tablets, and other similar devices. (Calculators are allowed.) Students using such devices may be asked to leave class. If a cell phone, smart watch, or similar device is visible or audible during an exam, you may receive a zero on that exam.

If this policy presents a serious problem, please let me know; exceptions may be made in special circumstances.

Academic Misconduct

Any incident in which a student submits work for grading that does not reflect their own effort is considered academic dishonesty. This includes using sources (by paraphrase or direct quotation) without proper attribution; collaborating on work where collaboration is not authorized; use of sources on an assignment or test where those sources are not authorized; and turning in work completed by another person.

Cheating on any work in this course will result in no credit for that work. Egregious or repeated incidents will result in more serious consequences, such as a failing grade in the course or dismissal from your academic program. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported as specified in your student handbook.

Student Handbook

Make sure you are familiar with the university policies as described in the [student handbook](#). This course will abide by all university policies.

Changes

Some portions of this syllabus may alter during the semester. When possible, I will announce changes in class as well as sending an email through the D2L email system. You are responsible for knowing everything I announce in class as well as everything I email to your address as listed in D2L. If you miss class, make sure you talk to someone who was there.

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. I would prefer to meet virtually for office hours while the university continues to operate with phase 3 pandemic restrictions, but I am also available to meet in person if necessary. If it is impossible for you to attend scheduled office hours, email me to set up an appointment at another time.

Communicating with Me

The best way to reach me is by email (my email address is on page 1). I will generally respond to email within 24 to 48 hours. I will be in my office during office hours each week and often at other times; feel free to stop by. Any communication not in writing or by email should be considered unofficial.

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 contact the Disability Support Services office.