

## Math 1053-103: Contemporary Math

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Cobb

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Office hours: Monday: 9:00-9:50 AM, 12:00-12:50 PM

Tuesday: 1:00-1:50 PM

Wednesday: 1:00—1:50 PM

Friday: 10:00—10:50 AM

Other times: email to set up an appointment

### Schedule

Lecture: MWF 8:00—10:00 AM

Unit Exams: September 27 and November 1 during class time

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 8, 8:00—10:00 AM

### Catalog information

Description: A survey of the use of mathematics in the modern world. Topics include theory of elections and apportionment, graphs and networks, growth and symmetry, or statistics.

Prerequisites: Math TSIA2 Assessment score of 950, Math TSIA2 Diagnostic score of 6; MATH 1003; math TSI Assessment score of 350; math THEA score of 270; math Accuplacer score of 90; or satisfactory score on placement exam.

### Course Materials

#### Textbook

*Excursions in Modern Mathematics*, tenth edition. Peter Tannenbaum.

You will also need access to the MyLab Math online content. Instructions for access will be provided on the first day of class as well as available on the course D2L page. An electronic copy of the book is included in the purchase of the MyLab system. You do not need a hard copy unless you want one.

#### 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 September 7, 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 should have a calculator that will add, subtract, multiply, divide, and take square roots. You will not need a graphing calculator, though you are welcome to use one. You are expected to bring your calculator to class each day. You may not use a phone or any device with internet access as a calculator. You may not share calculators.

## COVID-19 Safety: University Policies

### Vaccines

Although COVID-19 vaccinations are not mandated, **MSU Texas is strongly recommending that all students be vaccinated for COVID-19.**

### Masks

Masks will not be required for activities on campus. The wearing of masks while in public indoor settings and frequently washing your hands has proven to be effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19. Accordingly, we strongly recommend wearing masks when around others in indoor settings.

Please wear a face covering in this class, regardless of your vaccination status. Wearing a mask protects those around you, and establishing a culture of mask-wearing will keep the case prevalence under control, preventing future outbreaks and variants. Wearing masks in class will also help your instructor and classmates feel safer, which makes teaching and learning much more effective. In accordance with state and university policy, this is a request and not a requirement.

### Quarantine

**Unvaccinated students:** Unvaccinated students who have been identified as having a known exposure to a COVID-19 positive person will be required to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days or longer depending upon testing and degree of contact. Close contact generally means being within six feet of a person for a total of fifteen minutes within a 24-hour period. If a student is unvaccinated and can prove a COVID-19 diagnosis and recovery in the last 90 days and is symptom free, quarantine will not be required.

**Vaccinated students:** Fully vaccinated students who are not experiencing symptoms will NOT be required to quarantine or seek testing following an exposure to a COVID-19 positive person, including roommates. Following a known exposure, students should monitor for symptoms over the course of 14 days and quarantine if symptoms develop.

### Isolation

**Self-isolation will be required for all students who test positive for COVID-19.** Students who live in university housing will be provided with a location to complete the self-isolation period.

### Reporting

**Any student** (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who has a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 must complete the [COVID-19 Reporting Form for Students](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=9).

([https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout\\_id=9](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=9))

## Coursework and Grading

### Grading

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

Category	Percentage
Homework	20%
Quizzes	13%
Unit Exams	60%
Written Reflection	7%

Your final letter grade will be based on the percentage obtained:

Grade	Percentage
A	At least 90%
B	80—90%
C	70—80%
D	60—70%
F	Less than 60%

Final grades will not be rounded up and no extra credit will be given.

### Homework

Homework will be assigned using the MyLab system. Problems may be worked as many times as you like, so a perfect homework score should be attainable. Homework for each chapter will be due on the day of the chapter quiz; you are encouraged to work on homework after each class period. Homework can be completed after the due date and before the unit exam for half credit. After the unit exam, your homework score will be final.

The purpose of the homework is to help you understand the material for the class. I encourage you to take the homework seriously and put in as much effort as you need to in order to thoroughly understand the mathematics. MyLab includes many resources to help you, including videos, tutorials, and examples. It also includes online access to the textbook.

Instructions for setting up MyMathLab will be handed out on the first day of class and can be downloaded from the course D2L page.

### Quizzes

About eleven quizzes will be given over the course of the semester. Most will be announced ahead of time, but some may not be. No make-up quizzes will be given. Your two lowest quiz scores for the semester will be dropped.

### **Tests**

The unit exams for this class are on **September 27** and **November 1** during class time and on **Wednesday, December 8, 8:00—10:00 AM**.

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.

This course does not have a cumulative final exam.

### **Written Reflection**

A written reflection will be assigned at the end of the semester. It will be due by 5 PM on Monday, December 6.

## **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.

You should not attend class if you are feeling sick or if you have been asked to quarantine or self-isolate because of COVID-19. At the instructor's discretion, the class may be available via Zoom.

If you need to attend class by Zoom on a particular date, you must email the instructor with the request at least one hour before class is scheduled to begin. Include the date, course title (Contemporary Math), and the reason for the request. You do not need to provide details or evidence for the reason.

In the case of an official university-excused absence or Covid-related quarantine or isolation, attendance over Zoom will count as attendance in class, and any missed points will be excused. For any other absence, attending on Zoom will not count as being present in class and missed work will be counted as a zero. 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

In general, you may work with classmates on any out-of-class assignment unless instructed otherwise. Quizzes and tests must represent your own work.

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

This course will sometimes use D2L to distribute information. Grades will generally be posted to D2L. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program and to regularly check posted 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. If you wish to attend office hours in person, please wear a mask over your nose and mouth. If you prefer to attend virtually, 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.

### **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.