

## **Math 1233-103: College Algebra**

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Cobb

Office: Bolin 113A

Office phone: (940) 397-4441

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

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, 11:00—11:50 AM, Bolin 101

Unit Exams: September 29, October 27, and December 1 during class time

Final Exam: December 8, 1:00—3:00 PM

### **Catalog information**

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 TSIA2 score of 950, Math TSIA2 Diagnostic score of 6 ; MATH 1003 with a grade of C or better ; 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 and Online Homework System**

College Algebra with Modeling and Visualization, 6<sup>th</sup> 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, since digital access 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 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 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: 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 points earned in the following categories:

Category	Points
Participation	80 points
Homework	48 points
Quizzes	57 points
Unit Exams (3, 100 points each)	300 points
Course Project	70 points
Final Exam	150 points
Total	705 points

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

Grade	Percentage
A	At least 630 points
B	At least 560 points
C	At least 490 points
D	At least 420 points
F	Less than 420 points

Final letter grades are assigned at the discretion of the instructor, but this is the minimum standard to guarantee that you receive a particular grade. Do not count on rounding or extra credit to raise your grade.

### Participation

Active participation is an important part of this class. To achieve full points in participation you must:

- Attend every class
- Arrive on time and stay until the end
- Be 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 through MyLab)
- Participate actively in class (this includes having your phone off and put away)
- Treat your instructor and fellow students respectfully

Occasional assignments outside of class may also be counted towards your participation grade. Each participation grade item will count for 2 points and the highest 40 items will be counted.

### 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 Monday of the following week at 5:00 PM

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 50% penalty to your grade. You cannot turn in late homework for full credit.

Each homework assignment will be worth 1.5 points. The highest 32 scores will be counted.

### 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 10:00 AM the day of class.

You can complete late quizzes with a 50% penalty to your grade. You cannot turn in late quizzes for full credit.

Each quiz will be worth 1.5 points and the highest 38 scores will be counted.

### Tests

The unit exams for this class are **September 29**, **October 27**, and **December 1** during class time.

The final exam will be on **Wednesday, December 8, 1:00—3:00 PM**. The final exam will cover all course material.

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.

### Course Project

The course project will be due on **Monday, December 6 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.

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 (College Algebra), 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 will earn participation points. For any other absence, attending on Zoom will not count as being present in class and participation points will not be earned. 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.

### **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.

Do not bring communication devices to class on exam days. If a cell phone, smart watch, or similar device is visible or audible during an exam, you will receive a grade penalty on that exam and you may receive a zero.

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 and posting an announcement on the course D2L page. 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. You can drop in during scheduled hours listed on the front page of the syllabus, or email to make an appointment. 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.