



Course Syllabus: College Algebra
Online Section
MATH 1233 Section X20/X66
Spring Semester 2024

Contact Information

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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

No college level coursework is required before beginning this course. However, students must meet the requirements of the [Texas Success Initiative](#). MATH 1033 with a grade of C or better, math THEA score of 270, or satisfactory score on placement exam.

Textbook and Instructional Materials

Textbook and Online Homework System

We will be using the mathematics platform ALEKS throughout the semester. A link to ALEKS is accessible through D2L, or you can log onto ALEKS directly. Please refer to the ALEKS Environment course documents in D2L for an overview of the ALEKS system. Within the online environment, you will also have access to the textbook for this course: College Algebra, 3rd Ed. (McGraw-Hill) by Miller and Gerken.

Inclusive Access

Required digital materials (textbook and MyLab Access) for this course are part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas. Your course materials will be available on the first day of class through D2L. The charges for this material (\$92.82 plus \$7.66 tax) have been posted to your student account

at the Business Office. If you wish to opt out of this program, instructions will be sent to your my.msutexas.edu email address on the second day of class.

Course Modality

This course is entirely **asynchronous** and **online**. This means that you will be expected to set your own appropriate schedule to accomplish your goals in this course. Your progress for much of this course will be decided through Mastery-Based Assessment. Mastery-Based Assessment gives you (the student) the opportunity to learn from mistakes without punishment, gives you autonomy in your success in this course. Much of this will be unproctored and formative.

However, because it is vital to the integrity of this course, there will be one heavily weighted final assessment that is proctored to verify your progress was your own, without the use of outside sources or other aiding materials. Good performance on this assessment is essential to receiving a high grade in this course. It is helpful to think of the final assessment as something akin to an ACT or SAT, where the test grade is highly important, but the preparation leading up to the final assessment will undoubtedly improve your test grade.

Objectives

Your primary objective will be to learn the correct use of mathematical terminology and notation. You will also be learning problem solving skills from the point of view of a mathematician.

Expectations

Since this is an online course, there are no class meetings to attend. However, ALEKS will track the time you spend working on this course. You should expect to spend somewhere between **4 and 8 hours** online each week.

Success in this course normally requires work done at a steady pace with at least some work every day or two. Ignoring the course for an uninterrupted week or more will result in time spent relearning material you have forgotten.

You are expected to log into ALEKS at least three days per week to work on course content; log into D2L at least two days per week to view updates and class information; ask specific, thoughtful questions (through email, office hours, D2L, or ALEKS); put forth your best effort every day.

Grading

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

Category	Percentage
Module grades (4)	30%
Weekly topic goals (best 10)	10%
Graded Knowledge Check 1	15%
Graded Knowledge Check 2	15%
Final Knowledge Check	30%

Your final letter grade will be based on the percentage obtained and your grade on the Final Knowledge Check.

Grade	Overall Percentage		Final Knowledge Check Score
A	At least 90%	AND	At least 80%
B	80—90%	AND	At least 70%
C	70—80%	AND	At least 60%
D	60—70%	AND	At least 50%
F	Less than 60%		

Your highest 10 topic goal scores will contribute to your final grade. The four module grades will be determined at the time of the Final Knowledge Check and will be affected by your performance on that assessment. Final grades will not be rounded up and no extra credit will be given.

Exam Schedule

The 2 Graded Knowledge Checks and the Proctored Final Knowledge Check will be taken online. Each of these Knowledge Checks should take one to two hours. Exceeding two hours on one of these Knowledge Checks might invoke a penalty to your grade. The dates for these exams are in the following table.

Knowledge Check	Earliest Start Time	Latest End Time
Graded Knowledge Check 1	Mon Feb 19	Sun Feb 25
Graded Knowledge Check 2	Mon Apr 1	Sun Apr 7
Proctored Final Knowledge Check	Mon May 6	Thursday May 9

Proctored Final Knowledge Check

Your final exam in this course can be administered through one of the following options:

- (1) in person on the MSU Main Campus
- (2) through the online proctoring platform ProctorU
- (3) through another approved military or university testing center

Taking the final assessment on the MSU Campus is free, however there may be a fee for the other services that you will need to pay directly to ProctorU or third-party testing center. You do not need to schedule your exam with ProctorU until April, but you can go to the [MSU ProctorU Portal](#) soon to make sure you have the proper technology requirements if this is an option that you are interested in.

Course Policies

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.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

This course will use D2L to distribute information. 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.

Communicating with Me

The best way to reach me is by email (marcos.lopez@msutexas.edu). 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.

Office Hours

Office hours are times 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, please email to set up an appointment using Zoom. If it is impossible for you to attend scheduled office hours, email me to set up an appointment at another time.

Changes to Syllabus

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.

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.

Student Resources

For information about other services available to students, please visit the Student Resources web page at

https://msutexas.edu/academics/scienceandmath/student_resources.php

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 to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please contact the Disability Support Services office.