

Math 1053-201: Contemporary Math Spring 2024

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Cobb

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Office hours: Wednesday: 9:00-9:50 AM

Thursday 1:00-1:50 PM

Other times: email to set up an appointment

Schedule

Lecture: MWF 8:00—8:50 AM, Bolin 311

Unit Exams: February 19 and April 3 during class time

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 8, 8:00 AM-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

Instructional Materials and Online Homework

Excursions in Modern Mathematics, tenth edition. Peter Tannenbaum.

You will need access to the MyLab Math online content. Instructions for access will be available on the course D2L page no later than January 19. An electronic copy of the book is included in the purchase of the MyLab system. You do not need a physical copy unless you want one.

Paying for MyLab

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 (\$75.00 plus tax) have been posted to your student account at the Business Office. If you wish to opt out of this program, instructions will be set to your my.msutexas.edu email address on the second day of class. The deadline to opt out is January 22. If you choose to opt out, you will need to purchase the material from the bookstore or through the publisher.

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.

Coursework and Grading Grading

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

Category	Percentage
Homework	25%
Quizzes	15%
Unit Exams	60%

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%

No extra credit will be given in this class, and borderline grades will not generally be rounded up.

Homework

Homework will be assigned using the MyLab system. A specific MyLab course has been created for this class and should be accessed through D2L.

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 at 7:00 AM on the day of the chapter quiz. 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.

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 **February 19** and **April 3** during class time and on **Monday, May 8, 8:00 AM—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.

This course does not have a cumulative final exam.

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.

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.

Academic Misconduct

Any incident in which a student submits work for grading that is not wholly their own work 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.

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

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.

Course Communication

Course communication will take place in class, through D2L announcements, and by email. Make sure that your D2L email and email to your university address is forwarded to an email address you check regularly. Grades will generally be posted to D2L. 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.

Inclement Weather

In the case of inclement weather, pay attention to university communications to determine whether campus will be open. If campus is open, we will meet. If campus is closed, class is cancelled and dates for quizzes and exams will be adjusted.

Communicating with Me

The best way to reach me is by email (sarah.cobb@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 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 are not able to attend scheduled office hours, email me to set up an appointment at another time. If you would prefer to meet virtually by Zoom, send me an email to set up an appointment.

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.

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

MSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to allow students with disabilities to participate fully in its academic and campus life. Any student who may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification provided by Disability Support Services. The best time to present this documentation in private is during office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact Disability Support Services located in Clark Student Center, Room 168 or call 940-397-4140.

Some Useful Advice

I hope that every student in this class will be able to earn a grade that helps them towards their educational goals. Contemporary Math generally has a high success rate, so I expect this to be achievable for all of you. The points below are not course policies, but they are advice that former students have found useful.

- **Attend class and pay attention.** The reason attending class is required is that it contributes to student success. You will get more out of class if you attend each class session, take notes, and put away your phone.
- **Your phone is a distraction and will affect your grade.** Research on use of phones and computers in class shows that it decreases learning and test performance even when used for class purposes. As much as possible, make a habit of putting your phone away and setting it to “do not disturb” in class and when doing homework.
- **Do your homework to study.** The purpose of the homework is to help you prepare for quizzes and exams. You should work on your homework until you are confident you understand the material. Getting the right answer is only part of the process.
- **Study returned quizzes to prepare for exams.** Not every test problem will be similar to a quiz problem, but the quizzes give you an idea of what kind of questions will be on the test. I try to write useful comments when I grade. If you can’t read my writing, you can always ask.
- **Do your homework after every class.** Doing the homework will help you prepare for the next day’s class by making sure you are familiar with the material
- **If you have questions about the material, come to office hours.** I am happy to talk about homework problems, quizzes, or things that weren’t clear in class. You don’t need to make an appointment—that time is set aside so I can be available to work with students.
- **Find a study group.** Explaining things to other people is a good way to solidify your understanding. A good study group will help everyone get a deeper knowledge of the material.