Course Syllabus: Contemporary Mathematics with Developmental Support

Math 1053 Section 2R2 and MATH 0053 Section 2R2 Spring 2025
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00-9:50am and Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:50am

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Knox   Office: PH 119
Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:00-10:50am and
              Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-2:20pm
              Other times by appointment
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Course Description

This course supports students in developing skills, strategies, and reasoning needed to succeed in Contemporary Mathematics. Topics include the theory of elections and apportionment, graphs and networks, financial mathematics, and statistics.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required: My Math Lab associated with the textbook Excursions in Modern Mathematics Tenth edition by Tannenbaum. You are required to have a calculator and bring it to class every day. Your calculator must add, subtract, multiply, divide, take square roots, and have exponential functions. You do not need a graphing calculator, though you are welcome to use one. A physical textbook is not required.

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 follow the opt-out instructions which 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.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

You will access MyMathLab through the MSU D2L program. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. On D2L Dr. Knox will post any announcements and reminders that she feels will be helpful as we go through the semester. Dr. Knox may post links to math videos that she thinks you will find helpful (such as extra examples). Dr. Knox will also post grades within D2L and email students via D2L.

Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend every class. This includes arriving on time, staying until the end, and being prepared and engaged. Students are required to

participate in daily in-class activities such as handouts, group work, discussions, or presentations. A participation/attendance grade will be a portion of your final grade. In-class activities may be graded and may not be made up outside of class. Failure to participate in class will negatively affect your course grade. Use of cell phone during class for personal reasons may result in a participation grade of 0% for the day.

Having more than nine absences (total for both Math 1053 and Math 0053) may result in being dropped from both courses with an F. If you are instructor-dropped from the courses due to attendance, you have one week to complete a drop from Math 1053 with a W (and you will receive an F in MATH 0053). If you do not process a drop from Math 1053 within one week, then you will be dropped with an F from both MATH 0053 and 1053.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class, and an attendance grade will be a portion of your final MATH 0053 grade. **Any student who is late or who leaves early may be counted as absent and/or loses their participation grade for the day. This will result in a zero on any quiz or other assignment for the day.**

If you are absent from more than 5 classes (total for both Math 1053 and Math 0053), your attendance grade will be negatively affected. Starting with the sixth absence (total for both Math 1053 and Math 0053), 5 points will be deducted from your attendance grade for each absence after the fifth absence.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to
1. get notes from another student for the day(s) you missed, and
2. see Dr. Knox before the next class for any handouts from the day(s) you missed.

Student Drops from MATH 0053

Students will be allowed to withdraw from both MATH 0053 and MATH 1053 beginning March 24, 2025.

You may choose to drop MATH 1053 but not drop MATH 0053. You now have 2 options:

a. At the end of the semester, Dr. Knox will record your MATH 0053 grade that you had when you withdrew from MATH 1053. You will not be required to attend any further classes. The next semester you will repeat both MATH 0053 and MATH 1053.
b. You can request an ALEKS access code paid for by MCOSME to work through self-paced preparatory material for an algebra based college level course. During the week of final exams, you will take a proctored in-person exam over developmental material or retest on the TSIA2 – math portion. If you are successful on the proctored assessment or TSIA2 retest, Dr. Knox will record

a C for MATH 0053, and you will now be TSI complete. If you are not successful on the proctored assessment or TSIA2 retest, Dr. Knox will record your MATH 0053 grade that you had when you withdrew from MATH 1053, and you will have a $25 charge added to your MSU account to repay MCOSME for the ALEKS access.

Grading for MATH 1053

This course will be divided into three units, each worth one-third of the final grade. In each unit, your grade will be computed as follows:

Homework: 10%
Quizzes: 20%
Unit Exam 70%

At the end of each unit, the unit exam score and homework will be substituted for the unit average in the final grade computation if that is the higher average.

Grading scale

Grade	Percentage
A	at least 90%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Less than 60%

Grading for MATH 0053

If the student passes MATH 1053 with an A, B, C, or D, then the course grade for the developmental support (DS) course MATH 0053 will be calculated as follows:
    DS = 25%(D Attendance/Participation)+ 75%(CM +10%Homework)

If the student fails MATH 1053, then the course grade for MATH 0053 will be calculated using a weighted average and including the DS score listed above:
    AV = 75%(CM) + 25%(DS)

Homework

Homework is based on your homework score from My Math Lab. There are due dates given within MyMathLab for each assignment. Each due date time is the start of class on the day the homework assignment is due. Problems may be attempted as many times as you like, so a perfect homework score should be attainable. Homework can be completed after the due date and before the unit exam for 75% credit. After the unit exam, your homework score will be final.

Assignments are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments. Computers are available on

campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Tutoring and Academic Support Program. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline.** There are many places to access your homework. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student tech support from Pearson available to you.

Quizzes
Quizzes will be given regularly. *Makeup quizzes will not be given for any reason.* Any student who is considered absent (e.g for being late or leaving early) will receive a 0 on any quiz given that day.

Exam Dates
The tentative exam dates are as follows:
Exam 1: Tuesday, February 25, 2025
Exam 2: Thursday, March 27, 2025
Exam 3: Thursday, May 8, 2025

There is not a comprehensive final exam. **NOTE: Our final exam time of Monday, May 12, 2025, 8-10am, is reserved as a make up exam time in case test 3 needs to be rescheduled for any reason by Dr. Knox.**

If you must miss an exam, you should notify Dr. Knox at least one week ahead of the test date in order to discuss the possibility of taking an early make up exam. Accommodations with less notice will be made only in the case of serious and unforeseeable circumstances, and documentation for your absence will be required. Notice must always be given as soon as possible. Accommodations will generally not be made if notice is not given by 3:00 PM on the day of the exam.

General Classroom Guidelines
Please turn cell phones off or place on silent prior to the beginning of class. All cell phones must be placed face down on the desk/table in front of you. Violation of the general classroom guidelines may result in the student being counted absent, and any graded work turned in on that day will receive a grade of zero. Continued violations may result in a referral to the Dean of Students and/or the student may be withdrawn from the class by the instructor. Using an unauthorized electronic device (such as a cell phone, smart watch, or earbuds) during a test or quiz will result in one of the penalties listed under the academic misconduct policy given in this syllabus.

Academic Misconduct Policy
All work that you do that contributes to your course grade must be your own work. Any evidence that you submitted work that is not your own is considered an act of academic dishonesty. Use of an unauthorized electronic device on a quiz or exam is also considered an act of academic dishonesty. An act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the university and will result in one of the following academic sanctions:

- Receiving a 0 on the homework assignment, quiz, or exam.
- Receiving a 0 for your entire unit homework score.
- Receiving a 0 for your entire unit score.
- Loss of a certain percentage of your entire unit score.
- Loss of a certain percentage of your overall MATH 0053 and/or 1053 grade.
- Receiving an F in MATH 1053.
- Receiving an F in MATH 1053 that will remain permanently on your transcript and within your MSU GPA.

On homework, you may get assistance from others, but you are responsible for understanding what you submit. Never let someone borrow your work. If you want to help someone understand how to work a problem, talk to them and give them advice or pointers, but never give them your completed work. In addition, copying solutions from online resources or using an app to complete your homework is considered cheating. The university's academic dishonesty policy can be found at student handbook

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 go to Disability Support Services.

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry Law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit Campus Carry Rules and Policies.

College Policies

Student handbook: student handbook

The following link provides information about some of the resources that can be found on campus: Student Resources