

Course Syllabus: **Contemporary Mathematics**
Math 1053 Section 101 Fall 2025 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8-8:50am

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Knox Office: BO 122A
Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10-10:50am and Tuesday/Thursday 2-2:50pm
Other times by appointment
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Course 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.

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 will also post grades within D2L.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Any student who is late or who leaves early may be counted as absent. This will result in a zero on any quiz or other assignment for the day. ***Any student who misses seven or more classes may be dropped from the course.**

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.

Grading

This course will be divided into three units, each worth one-third of the final grade. Your three unit scores will be averaged to compute your final MATH 1053 score. In each unit, your grade will be computed as follows:

Homework: 10%

Quizzes: 20%

Unit Exam 70%

Grading scale for your final grade

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

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 throughout the semester. Once per unit, Dr. Knox will replace your lowest quiz score with that unit test score. ****Makeup quizzes will not be given for any reason.***

Exam Dates

The tentative exam dates are as follows:

Exam 1: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Exam 2: Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Exam 3: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

There is not a comprehensive final exam.

***NOTE: Our final exam time of Wednesday, December 10, 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. 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 overall MATH 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](#).

College Policies and Student Handbook

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Campus Carry

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](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)