



Course Syllabus: Contemporary Mathematics

College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering

MATH 1053 Section 1R4

Fall 2026

Contact Information

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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, financial mathematics, or statistics.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to choose and analyze mathematical models to solve problems from real-world settings, including, but not limited to, personal finance, civic engagement, and planning and logistics;
2. Apply mathematical ideas of fairness to assess methods of group choice and fair division;
3. Use mathematical formulae to analyze the value of loans and investments;
4. Demonstrate fundamental probability/counting techniques and apply those techniques to solve problems;
5. Interpret and analyze various representations of data.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

You will do all of your homework in MyLab Math for the textbook *Excursions in Modern Mathematics*, by Tannenbaum 10th edition. The charges for this material have been posted to your student account at the Business Office. If you want to "opt out" of this program and the cost savings, you will receive the "opt out" instructions as you register for MyLabMath. If you choose to "opt out", it is your

responsibility to contact Pearson for instructions on registering for MyLabMath, and you will be without access to homework for up to a week.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact the MSU Bookstore (940) 397-4303.

Calculators

You should have a scientific calculator. 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 on quizzes or tests. You may not share calculators

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Use of AI—especially smart glasses, watches, phones, etc.—during exams is prohibited. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct.](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Homework: 20%

Quizzes and Attendance: 20%

Unit Exams: 60%

Your final grade will be based on the weighted average of your scores in the three categories above:

A: at least 90%

B: 80–89%

C: 70–79%

D: 60–69%

F: Less than 60%

Homework

Homework will be assigned using the MyLab system. 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 for 100% credit on the day of the chapter quiz; you are encouraged to work on homework after each class period. Homework can be completed after the due date and before the unit exam for 75% credit. After the unit exam, your homework score for that unit will be final. Homework will be assigned daily over the material that is covered in class. ***Homework is accessed through D2L by clicking on the MyLabMath Course Home link on the D2L homepage for Math 1053.**

Quizzes

A quiz will be given most weeks. Make-up quizzes will only be given if a student can take the quiz before it is given in class, and prior arrangements have been made to do so. A missed quiz will result in a grade of 0 on that quiz. At the end of the semester, the quiz with the lowest grade will be dropped from the final grade computation. Quizzes will be submitted through D2L.

Exams

There will be three unit exams during the semester. 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. Accommodations with less notice will be made only in the case of serious and unforeseeable circumstances. Notice must always be given as soon as possible; *accommodations will generally not be made if notice is not given by 5:00 PM on the day of the exam.

Final Exam

Please note that there is no final exam for this course. The class will end after the third exam.

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 as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class. This includes arriving on time, staying until the end, and being prepared and engaged. Missing more than nine classes (total for both Math 1053 and Math 0053) or portions of classes may result in being dropped from the course with an F. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to talk to a classmate to find out what you missed. Students will be allowed to withdraw from MATH 1053 and MATH 0053 beginning March 23, 2026.

Online Computer Requirements

This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests 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, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline.*** There are many places to access your homework. Our online homework can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also student tech support from Pearson available to you.

Assessment of Core Objectives

Samples of students' work from embedded exam questions will be used in the assessment of critical thinking, communication skills, and empirical and quantitative skills. One core objective will be assessed in each of the three exams given over the semester.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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 Student Wellness Center, (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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

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 has 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 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."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.