



Course Syllabus: Contemporary Mathematics

College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering

MATH 1053 Section X40

Summer II 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, civic engagement, and planning and logistics;
2. Apply mathematical ideas of fairness to assess methods of group choice and fair division;
3. Demonstrate fundamental probability/counting techniques and apply those techniques to solve problems;
4. Interpret and analyze various representations of data.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required digital materials for this course are part of the MSU Texas Access & Affordability Program. Students are charged for required course materials on their student account with the Business Office. Opt-out instructions are sent to students' official my.msutexas.edu email address once classes begin. Please contact the MSU Bookstore if you have any questions about the opt-out process. If you "opt out", you lose your course material. It may not happen immediately, but it will happen. You cannot complete the course successfully without access to

the course materials, as all assignments, quizzes, and exams are part of the course materials.

If you “opt out” by mistake, please contact jenny.denning@msutexas.edu, bookstore manager, to be “re-instated” with your course materials.

The digital courseware material used for this course is MyLab Math, Excursions in Modern Mathematics, tenth Edition, by Peter Tannenbaum. You will gain access to these materials by clicking on any MyLab Math link from within the MyLab Math folder of D2L and completing the registration.

An easy to navigate electronic copy of the textbook is available within the digital material used for this course.

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

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Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

All work that you submit for this course 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 (cheating). 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, quiz, or exam.
- Receiving a 0 for the entire quiz grade for the semester (20%) or the entire homework grade for the semester (10%).
- Receiving an F in MATH 1053 that will remain permanently on your
- transcript and within your MSU GPA

On homework assignments, students may discuss the problems among themselves, as well as with any other person that is willing to discuss the problems, but each student is expected to work out and understand the solutions prior to submitting them online

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

The final grade for the course will be determined by a combination of homework, quizzes, and unit exams using the grading scheme below.

Table 1: Weight allocated to each assessment type.

Assignments	Weight
Unit 1 Homework Assignments average	4%
Unit 1 Quizzes	8%
Unit 2 Homework Assignments average	3%
Unit 2 Quizzes	6%
Unit 3 Homework Assignments average	3%
Unit 3 Quizzes	6%
Unit Exams (three, equally weighted)	70%

***Note:** No unit homework grade may be higher than 30% above the student's corresponding unit exam grade. If either, or both, are, then the instructor will lower these grades to the student's unit exam grade + 30%.

Table 2: Course grades.

Grade	Weighted Average from Table 1
A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	Less than 60%

Course Overview

You will be covering most of 10 chapters from the textbook (included in MyLab Math as an eBook). For each chapter there will be multiple homework sets and a chapter quiz. The chapters covered in the course are divided into three units. At the end of each unit there is a unit test. The three units are Unit 1 – Social Choice (Chapters 1 - 4), Unit 2 – Statistics (Chapters 15 – 17), and Unit 3 – Management Science (Chapters 5 – 7).

Quizzes

For each of the ten chapters of the text covered in the course (see above), there will be a chapter quiz. You may take a chapter quiz up to two times; however, the condition required for a second attempt at a chapter quiz is attaining a grade of 60% or higher on each of the chapter's homework assignments. When a quiz is taken twice, your grade on the quiz will be the higher of your scores. See the note within the **Grading** section of this course policy, as a student's quiz scores may be lowered when a student's unit exam grade is significantly below the student's unit quiz average.

Exams

All unit exams will be proctored online, which requires a strong steady internet connection as well as a webcam. In the past, all three unit exams have been proctored by ProctorU, an independent proctoring service provider, at the student's expense. This summer term, all exams will be given through MyLab Math and proctored through Pearson's Respondus Monitor and Browser. When an exam is proctored through Pearson's Respondus Monitor and Lockdown Browser, there is no charge to the student. Whether or not an individual student will be required to use ProctorU (at the student's expense) when taking some of the unit exams, will depend on how well the student demonstrates through the Respondus Monitor videoing that they are doing their own work when completing unit exams.

For each unit test, you will be required to upload your work into a Dropbox folder within D2L. Preference would be that the upload is one pdf document. Adobe Scan is a free mobile app that can be used to create the pdf. The pdf can then be uploaded into Dropbox through the Brightspace Pulse app from your phone. This app is not required, but is recommended.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is not available in this course. If you're concerned about your grade at any point, please reach out to the instructor early and regularly. I'm here to support your learning and success. Your final grade will reflect the extent to which you have mastered the course content, so staying engaged and seeking help when needed is the best way to stay on track.

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.

Day-to-Day Assignment Schedules

Within the Content Browser of the D2L course there is a Syllabus folder. In the Syllabus folder you will find this course syllabus and, for each of the three course units, a day-to-day schedule for section homework assignments, chapter quizzes,

and the unit exam. The day-to-day schedule shows multiple assignments due each day, Monday through Saturday. Since the summer term is very fast paced, in the day-to-day schedule assignments due dates are spread over six days each week, though you may work ahead of schedule if you wish. To compare the pace of the course in a summer term to a regular fall or spring semester, each two days of assignments during a summer term equates to about one-week of assignments in a regular fall or spring semester. It is important to work on this course daily (or nearly daily) during this quick summer term.

In the day-to-day schedule for each unit are two columns of due dates. The first due date column is what you should aim to follow as you work through the assignments within the unit. However, to provide flexibility, there is a column listing the final availability for completing each chapter's homework assignments and quiz, and the final availability for completing the unit exam. After the final availability date for a chapter, the assignments for that chapter will no longer be available for you to complete. If you miss the final availability date for completing a chapter that is not the last chapter within a unit, then you are welcome to send me an email requesting a one day extension of access to the assignments in the chapter that you need to complete. I am happy to accommodate such an extension request up to three times. Since access to assignments on final availability days ends at 11:59 PM, if you want to work on the assignment between the hours of 12 AM and 9 AM, immediately following the 11:59 PM cut-off, you should request the extension by 8:30 PM prior to the 11:59 PM cut-off time. Any student requesting an extension of more than one day to complete a chapter must provide a reason for needing a multiple day extension. I will then either approve or deny the extension request. Do not expect to receive an extension for the final chapter in any unit or for the unit exam.

Course Organization in D2L

Although the format of this course is web-based, the content, goals, and objectives remain the same as a course taught in a traditional classroom setting. The course is organized by weeks within D2L. Each week contains modules (folders) for the sections of the text for which you are to learn course content. Besides links to instructional pages to read and instructional videos to watch, these modules also contain links to all assignments (homework, quizzes, and exams) to be completed during the week. Each module over course content also has a link to the eBook.

To be successful in this course it is necessary to spend sufficient time watching the videos and reading pages within each section's module before attempting assigned homework problems. Only after you have read the pages in the module and watched the instructional video(s) for a give section of the text, should you attempt to work the problems in the section's homework assignment. For students who learn mathematics well through reading, it is an option to read the section of the textbook in place of obtaining instruction through the content links in D2L. For the most part, the instructor recommends working through the

content in D2L to maximize learning. If you decide to read instead, and then later find that you do not fully understand the topics of a section, you should go back to the module to watch posted videos and read any instruction pages the instructor has posted.

As you work through each section of the text, your goal should be to develop mastery of the content within that section. If you discover, while working the assigned homework problems, that you have questions, it is important that you seek answers to your questions. If you have not fully engaged with the instruction in the modules, do that. If you have already fully engaged with the instruction in the modules and find yourself needing more support, reach out to me to schedule an appointment. As an option, as you work homework problems, you will see an "Ask My Instructor" link. Clicking this will result in sending your instructor an email that will contain a link to the specific problem you are working on. Within the email, it is important to include exactly what you have done to arrive at your answer to the problem or include specifically what you understand about how to solve the problem and where you think you are confused or unsure. Taking a picture of your work and sending it as an attachment in an email can help your instructor understand where you need help with understanding. The more your instructor understands about how you are approaching the solution of a problem, the more she is able to provide guidance to you. Your instructor will not work the problem for you, so only if you have a specific question that she can answer that can help you to move forward with solving the problem should you use the "Ask My Instructor" link.

Another option for getting support with your learning is by meeting with your instructor, which can be done through zoom or in-person by sending her an email requesting an appointment.

Homework Help within MyLab Math

As you work through homework within MyLab Math you can access question help, as needed, from the top right side of the screen containing the problem. The question help may include features like Help Me Solve This, View an Example, Textbook, Calculator, Ask My Instructor, and Print. You should always complete the section module in D2L by watch the videos and reading any instruction pages prior to working the section homework problems. In this course, you are to learn algorithms for solving many different problems motivated by real world scenarios. You must precisely follow these algorithms in order to consistently obtain correct answers to the questions asked. Do not use the Help Me Solve This or View an Example help features, when they are options, in place of watching the videos and reading instruction pages in D2L. Doing this will result in a superficial understanding of the algorithmic processes used to solve the problems. A superficial understanding of the course content will not be sufficient for achieving passing chapter quiz and unit exam scores, which make-up a high percent of your course grade. When working homework, do not be overly concerned with getting every answer correct on your first attempt, as you will be able to work a similar problem, and by working the similar problem

correctly, will receive credit for the problem. Using View an Example to help you answer a homework problem should be done only after you have tried working the problem at least once on your own. Even then, before using View an Example you should go to the eBook to read any explanation offered for solving the problem or go back to a video(s) in D2L to re-watch them in order to review the concepts needed for working the problem. Using View and Example frequently to work homework problems may get you a good homework score; but will likely not translate to developing a comprehensive understanding of course content, which is a necessity for successful completion of the course.

Once again, if you need additional support/explanation, etc. to help you learn, your instructor is available for zoom or in-person help sessions. To schedule a help session, send her an email request. She will always do her best to get you scheduled as soon as possible.

Instructor Drop of a Student

Students should refer to the current MSU Student Handbook for university policies on academic dishonesty, student rights, and activities. You can access the handbook by clicking on [Student Handbook](#). One policy within this handbook concerns Instructor Drops, which allows an instructor to drop a student for various reasons, including failing to meet class assignments. In this class, not taking a unit test, not completing more than 20% of the homework assignments or not completing more than 2 of the chapter quizzes will be considered as failing to meet class assignments. In such cases the student may be dropped from the class by the instructor with a grade of WF or F. A homework assignment will be considered “not completed” if your score is less than 60% on the assignment.

Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor

This course requires the use of Pearson’s LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitoring and a webcam for online exams and some quizzes. The webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable. Watch this [short video](#) to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature. A student [Quick Start Guide](#) is also available.

When taking an online exam that requires LockDown Browser and a webcam, remember the following guidelines:

- Ensure you are in a location where you will not be interrupted;
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach;
- Clear your desk of all external materials not permitted;
- Before starting the exam, know how much time is available for it, and be sure that you have allotted sufficient time to complete it;
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the exam;
- Run the Webcam Check and System & Network Check in LockDown Browser prior to starting the exam;

- To produce a good webcam video of you taking the exam, do the following:
 - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims;
 - Ensure your computer or tablet is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the computer on your lap, a bed or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move;
 - If using a built-in webcam, avoid tilting the screen after the webcam setup is complete;
 - Take the exam in a well-lit room and avoid backlighting, such as sitting with your back to a window;
- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications.

My preference is that each student be allowed to use Pearson's Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor when taking all three of the unit-exams so that the student does not have to pay an additional fee to Proctor U for their proctoring service. In order for a student to use Pearson's Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor the student must be able to provide the instructor with a good video (both picture and sound) while the student is taking a unit exam. A good video will include the student's eyes being focused only on the computer screen and a small workspace in front of the computer that consists of scratch paper, one page of notes, and a handheld calculator. A good video also requires that the student carefully follows all directions given when recording the environment check video. Any student that does not follow the directions given for the environment check video for a unit exam will be required to take subsequent unit exams using ProctorU at the student's expense. In addition, up to a 20% grade deduction may occur on any proctored assessment in which a student did not follow all directions within the environment check of Respondus Monitor and Lockdown Browser.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: July 9th

Last day to drop with a grade of "W": July 22nd at 4pm

More information: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online 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 class. Our online class 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 helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations, however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

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](#).

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

Update as needed. 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.