

MATH 1314: College Algebra

Texas A&M University - Commerce

Course syllabus

Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Thomas J. Faulkenberry

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1 Course Information

1.1 Course Description

A passing grade in this course will satisfy the mathematics portion of your university studies requirements. This course covers an in-depth study and applications of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations. Additional topics such as sequences and series are included.

1.2 Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of properties of functions, which include domain and range, operations, compositions, and inverses.
2. Identify, interpret, and solve problems of various types of functions and their graphs, including but not limited to linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
3. Apply graphing techniques for various functions.
4. Identify and develop basic sequences and series.
5. Solve systems of equations with various methods including elimination, substitution, Cramers rule and matrices

1.3 Required Materials

The course textbook is *College Algebra* (5th Edition) by Robert F. Blitzer, ISBN # 978-0-321-55983-8. The book should be accompanied by a MyMathLab software package with a student access code. (You will have to purchase a new MyMathLab access code if you have an account with MyMathLab for your intermediate algebra class the previous semester. You do NOT need to purchase a new MyMathLab access code if you are retaking this course using MyMathLab for the same book with the same edition). Portions of Chapters 1-8 in the textbook will be discussed.

If your copy of the textbook does not come with the software and access code, you can purchase MyMathLab/MyLab student access code directly from Pearson at <http://www.coursecompass.com>

Please use the MyMathLab 17-day free trial to start working on your homework if you cannot purchase it right away. The MyMathLab student access code must be purchased by the beginning of the 3rd week of class to prevent a loss in points!

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In addition, a graphing calculator will be required throughout the course and each student must have access to a suitable graphing calculator. The graphing calculator must have at least the capabilities of the TI83/84 (the highly recommended calculator). Graphing calculators other than a TI-83/84 may be used but classroom instruction on calculators will be given for TI equipment only.

Students need to check their e-mail regularly with the address that they have provided to the instructor for class announcements. Access to MyMathLab, a computer, and the internet will be needed for online homework assignments.

2 Course Requirements

2.1 Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Daily Grade (Attendance, Homework, Tutoring, Quizzes and Projects)	15%
Competency Exam	10%
Exams	50%
Final exam	25%

Grades will be assigned based on a standard 10 point grading scale; that is, 90% gets you an A, 80% gets you a B, etc.

2.2 Attendance & Continual Enrollment

Attendance will be taken each class. Students need to actively participate in class to receive credits. Attendance is a must to be able to do well in this class. Every class period will be covering new material that you will be responsible foreven in the event of an absence!! It is expected that you follow the guidelines set forth by the Class Attendance Policy in the current Undergraduate Catalogue.

If you represent TAMU-C on an athletic team, departmental team, scholastic team, choir, or other group and must miss class, notify me in writing with the appropriate documentation within one week of the absence in order not to be counted absent. Arrangements for make-up work will be made at that time.

All students should be aware that they are NOT allowed to drop this math course, and that they must be continually enrolled in a math course until they have successfully completed their college-level math course (University Policy).

2.3 Homework

Homework will be assigned every class period. The homework is a must for success in this class. **You are required to complete your homework using MyMathLab/MyLab software.** Homework is due in a week after the day that is assigned (or before the exam day, whichever comes first).

If you experience any technical difficulties with MyMathLab, be sure to use the online help and technical support from the software company. If you continue to have trouble accessing or navigating the software, please contact me for some individual help. If you have questions concerning the homework, email me, or come by my office during my office hours for help.

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2.4 Tutoring

Tutoring is available in the Math Skills Center, TRIO, Supplemental Instruction tutoring sessions, and other on campus tutoring sessions that are approved by the Mathematics Department.

The Math Skills Center, located in Binnion 328, is open Monday and Wednesday from 8am - 8pm, Tuesday and Thursday from 8am - 6pm, and Friday from 8am - 3pm. Free tutoring is available for students who need help with their math courses. In addition, the Academic Success Center also offers supplemental instruction for students and their hours can be found at the university web site.

The Mach III/TRIO Program is available for students who qualify for additional resources, such as private tutoring. In order to qualify, students must meet certain conditions, such as being a first-generation college student. For more information, contact TRIO at 903-886-5833 or in the Halladay Student Services building, Room 300.

2.5 Quizzes

Quizzes may be given in class periodically. No make-up quizzes will be given, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Be sure to attend all classes so you do not miss any quizzes.

2.6 Competency Exam

Math1314 students are required to complete a competency exam which covers the prerequisite materials for college algebra. Students need to seek tutoring help if they do not pass the competency exam on the first try (in class). Students have to score 80% or higher on this test in order to pass. Competency exams will be graded with no partial credits (problems are either completely right or wrong). Students can retake the competency exam outside of class in the academic testing center (up to three times a week) before the deadline of Friday, September 28, 2012. Students will receive 10% on their final grade if they pass the competency exam. Students will receive a zero for that 10% of the final grade if they do not pass the competency exam before the deadline.

2.7 Exams

There are three scheduled exams. A practice exam and answer key will be provided prior the exam. Partial credit may be given on exams IF all work is neatly shown for determination of the students mistakes. CELL PHONES AND OTHER SUCH DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND STORED OUT OF THE STUDENTS REACH. The only electronic device allowed during tests and quizzes is a stand-alone calculator (such as a TI-34, TI-83, TI-85, etc.), and only with the instructor's permission. All exams must be completed in pencil; failure to complete your exam in pencil will result in a reduction of the earned grade by 5 points.

No make-up exams will be given without prior notice of a university excused absence. I realize that at times throughout the semester, emergency situations may arise that affect a students performance on an exam or even prevent a student from attending on an exam day. I am willing to replace the lowest exam grade with the students grade on the final exam, provided the final exam score is higher. This provision will only be applied to ONE exam, so students should make every effort to be present and well-prepared for all exams.

The following exam dates are tentative and are subject to change:

Exam 1	9/28
Exam 2	10/24
Exam 3	11/19

2.8 Final Exam

The final exam will be a departmental, comprehensive exam. All students will take the exam at the same time on Monday, Dec. 10, 2012 between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Please note that this is an unusual time and make your arrangements to be present. Make-up final exams will not be allowed. The location of the final exam will be announced toward the end of the semester (Departmental policy). **NO MAKE-UP FINAL EXAM WILL BE ALLOWED!!!**

3 Communication and Support

- Each student is encouraged to contact the professor for assistance with any class-related problem.
- Use email to facilitate speedy communication between student and professor. Please keep in mind your instructor's posted office hours.
- Students' grades and concerns are very important! To discuss grades or concerns contact the professor during office hours.
- Students are responsible for all course announcements, either in class or distributed by email.

4 Course and University Procedures and Policies

4.1 Academic Integrity

I believe a majority of students are honest in doing their school work. However, due to recent cheating events, I must take measures to protect the academic integrity of my classroom. I have a **NO TOLERANCE** policy for cheating and if you are caught cheating you will either get a zero for the test or fail this course. Cheating in this course is defined as the following:

- Giving or receiving answers during an exam or quiz.
- Viewing the exam or quiz answers of nearby classmates.
- Having notes/practice work available during quizzes or tests.
- Possession or access to test items before the test is given.
- Deception in getting an excused absence to obtain the undeserved opportunity to make-up work.
- Use of cell phones or text messaging technology during exams or quizzes. You may **NOT** use the calculator on your cell phones or any other similar electronic devices (such as iPhones, etc.). **IF ONE OF THESE DEVICES IS AVAILABLE, IN ANY WAY, DURING AN EXAM OR QUIZ, THE STUDENT WILL BE GIVEN AN AUTOMATIC 0 ON THE ASSIGNMENT.**

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- Improper citations in written works, or using another persons ideas and words as your own without giving proper credit.
- Any method, no matter how well rationalized or accepted, which improves a persons grade by any means other than study and skillful performances on exams and/or other assignments.

Students found guilty of an act of academic dishonesty in this course will be subject to receiving an F in this course.

4.2 Classroom Behavior

Appropriate classroom behavior is required to attend this class. All cell phones and electronic devices must be put on silent or turned off during class. **NOTE: THIS INCLUDES BLUETOOTH AND OTHER DEVICES THAT ARE PLACED IN THE EAR.** Phones and iPods are distractions for me and the other students in the class. All people will be treated with respect and I will not allow talking that will disrupt my class. If disruptions occur during class time, you will be asked to leave class and will earn a zero on any applicable grades for that class period. Serial disrupters will be asked to withdraw from this class. This will mean that you are withdrawn from school entirely. You don't want that.

4.3 Getting Help Outside of Office Hours

Utilizing the multimedia library and online help from the MyMathLab computer software program is suggested as a valuable resource for many students to improve their grades in Math classes. Also, the free tutoring on campus is also highly recommended.

4.4 Calculator Loan Program

The Mathematics Department has set up a calculator loan program to support students. Students can borrow a calculator for a semester for a small fee (\$10 for TI-83/84). The calculators are available on a first come, first served basis.

4.5 Early Intervention for First Year Students

: Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University's interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. Grades for students in freshmen level classes will be reported to the Registrar's Office at the end of the fifth week of class during the fall and spring semesters. The Registrar's Office will report grades to students, Advising Services, Academic Departments (faculty advisors) and mentors. This procedure will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester. The university, through Advising Services, faculty advisors and mentors, will take steps to assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

4.6 Student Health Services

Student Health Services is located at Henderson Hall (Corner of Lee St. and Monroe St.). It offers health care to the student body of Texas A&M University - Commerce. It provides primary health care services including treatment of illness, injury, and womens health. Tel: (903) 886-5853.

4.7 University Police

The University Police Department is located at Henderson Hall. For Emergency, please call: 911 For Non-Emergency, please call: 903.886.5868

4.8 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

4.8.1 Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Students Guide Handbook). Furthermore, by remaining enrolled in this course, all students agree to abide by the policies of this class, as stated in this syllabus.

Any changes to this syllabus will be communicated to you in class by the instructor.