Dr. Sheyleah Harris-Plant (Dr. HP)

(806) 716-2665
sharris@southplainscollege.edu
Levelland Campus Math Building Room 120A

Important Dates

First Day of Class
Monday, 24 August 2026

Labor Day (All campuses closed)
Monday, 7 September 2026

Last day to confirm degree and fall commencement participation
Thursday, 1 October 2026

SPC Fall Break (All campuses closed)
Friday, 16 October 2026

Online Registration opens
Friday, 6 November 2026

Thanksgiving Holiday (All campuses closed)
Wednesday, 25 November 2026 – Friday, 27 November 2026

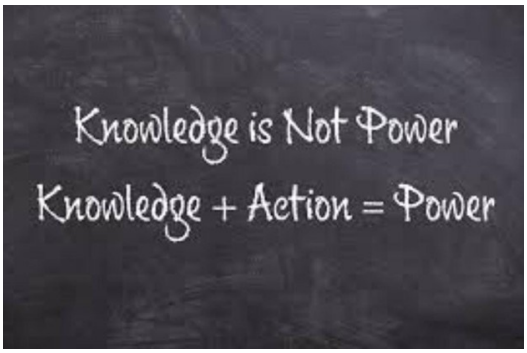
Last Day to Drop
Thursday, 3 December 2026

Final Exam Week
Monday, 7 December 2026 - Thursday, 10 December 2026

Foundations of Algebra

MATH-0305-609

Fall 2026



Welcome to Foundations of Algebra

This is a face-to-face course that meets twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 pm at the Lubbock Downtown Center, room B010, in Lubbock, TX.

Are you ready to explore and fill in the gaps in arithmetic operations and basic algebraic concepts? As your instructor, I look forward to providing you with the opportunity to acquire and practice the math skills you will need to succeed in your future math classes.

Student Help Sessions (A.K.A. Office Hours)

Downtown Center (B001):
Thursdays: 10:00 (10:00 am) – 11:00 (11:00 am) CT (Central Time)
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 14:30 (2:30 pm) – 16:30 (4:30 pm) CT (Central Time)

The virtual link is also found in the Blackboard Course:
Wednesdays: 10:00 (10:00 am) – 11:00 (11:00 am) CT (Central Time)
Thursdays: 19:00 (7:00 pm) – 20:00 (8:00 pm) CT (Central Time)
Fridays: 13:00 (1:00 pm) – 14:00 (2:00 pm) CT (Central Time)

or **by appointment**
(scan QR code or use the link to make an appointment)
Schedule an appointment

Course Learning Goals

At the end of the semester, we will be able to:

- Perform basic arithmetic operations on integers, fractions, and decimals
- Perform calculations involving exponents and order of operations
- Solve application problems involving proportions, percent, and fractions
- Simplify algebraic expressions and solve linear equations
- Solve application problems involving linear models
- Graph linear equations in two variables
- Apply rules of exponents
- Perform operations on polynomials.

Course Objectives

- **Communication skills**—to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts, resulting in informed conclusions

Class Requirements

Our classroom is face-to-face. This means the lecture and some assignments are completed in class, while the practice (homework) and tutoring occur outside class.

Practice (homework) problems will be assigned daily. The lecture notes and practice (homework) problems are to be kept in a binder as a portfolio to be used as a textbook and study guide.

Quizzes will be given weekly. The corrected quizzes will be kept in your portfolio as a study guide.

I am a resource to help you learn. If you need help, ask after you have tried the topic.

Our focus is on learning and mastery of the material.

Supplies

- Writing Utensils
  Any pencil or pen that will write dark enough for an uploaded document to be read on a computer screen
- 8.5-inch by 11-inch paper or tablet
  Students can print off the lecture notes or use a tablet to download them and fill them out. If the tablet has the internet turned off during assessments, it can still be used to write assessment work.
- A large 3-ring binder with dividers
  The dividers can be homemade or store-bought. This binder will become your textbook for the class.
- Good Internet Connection and Technology
  A high-speed internet connection and a computer using macOS X 10.5 or higher, Windows Vista or higher, or ChromeOS.
- Non-Programmable Scientific Calculator (No Graphing Calculator)
  Graphing calculators will not be allowed during the class. The following calculators are recommended: TI-36X Pro or Casio fx-115 or equivalent ***during the algebraic course content***.

Tips for Success

- Avoid distractions (cell phone, social media, games, television, or open tabs and windows on your device) when watching and working through lecture videos
- Use the resources (notes, extra videos on Blackboard, free tutoring through the college, each other, and myself) available to you
- Don't hesitate to ask for help and always communicate
- Be sure to complete the assigned work
- Read the feedback given to you on graded work to improve your skills
- Save all of your notes and work

Applications Used

Blackboard

We will use Blackboard this term, which allows is our Learning Management System (LMS). It will house all of the course materials, resources, and grades. The gradebook will automatically give a zero for any assignment not graded by the due date. Do not worry if you submitted your assignment, I will change the grade once the assignment is graded.

Download the Blackboard mobile app on the App Store or Google Play to have mobile access to Blackboard.

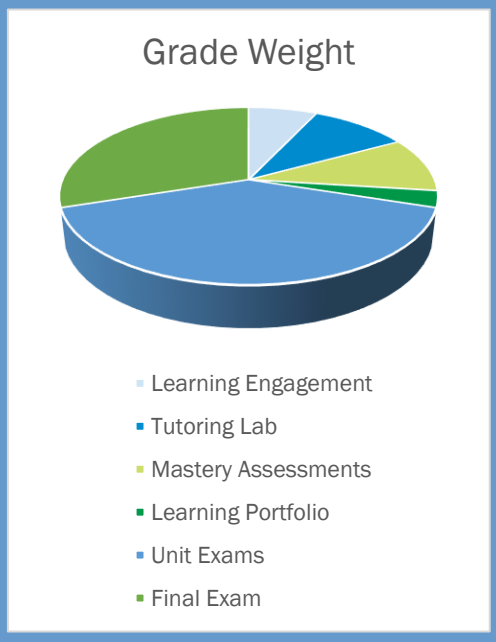
Assignment Weights

The 100-point system is used for grading, and 100 points will be the highest grade reported at the end of the semester. All assignments will add up to 100 points.

89.5 and above earns an A
79.5 - 89.49 earns a B
69.5 - 79.49 earns a C
59.5 - 69.49 earns a D
59.49 and below earns an F

- Tutoring Lab: 10 points
- Mastery Assessments: 10 points
- Learning Engagement: 7 points
- Learning Portfolios: 3 points
- Unit Exams: 40 points
- Final Exam: 30 points

To find the relative (percentage) grade, divide the total points by the possible points and multiply by 100.



Class Assignments

Assessment Philosophy

Assessments in this course are designed to support learning, monitor progress, and measure mastery of course outcomes. Students will have opportunities to prepare, practice, reflect, revise, and demonstrate understanding throughout the semester. Success is determined by engagement, persistence, and learning from mistakes.

Required Tutoring Lab Attendance (Worth 1 point each)

- You must attend the tutoring lab provided by South Plains College to get assistance and practice for 60 minutes (1 hour) weekly. For twelve (12) weeks, with two weeks (2) being extra credit.
- When you arrive at the Tutoring Lab, check in on the Penji app and sign in on the sign-in sheet as backup to get credit for your attendance.
- A week is from Sunday through Saturday.
- Your grade will be computed by finding the ratio of the minutes you attended the tutoring lab over the required 60 minutes.

Learning Portfolios (Worth 1 point each)

Your Learning Portfolio is a collection of notes, practice problems, assessments, corrections, and other course materials that document your growth throughout the semester. Your portfolio will be collected on exam days for grading. The lecture notes, practice (homework) problems, corrected quizzes, and reviews will be kept in a binder as a portfolio. This portfolio will serve as a textbook and study guide, so keeping it organized and up to date is important. There will be three (3) portfolio checks over the semester with no extra credit.

Learning Engagement Activities (Worth a total of 7 points)

Learning Engagement Activities are designed to help you prepare for class, monitor your understanding, and reflect on your learning throughout the semester. These activities provide regular opportunities to practice important skills, identify questions, receive feedback, and learn from mistakes.

Learning Engagement Activities may include Readiness Checks, Exit Tickets, Learning Reflections, and other short learning activities assigned throughout the semester.

Success in mathematics is built through consistent effort and engagement. These activities are intended to help you develop the habits that support long-term success, including preparation, participation, self-reflection, and persistence when learning challenging material.

The purpose of these assignments is not to be perfect. The purpose is to stay actively engaged in the learning process and continuously improve your understanding of the course material.

Readiness Checks

Readiness Checks are short assessments completed at the beginning of class. Their purpose is to help you review prerequisite skills and prepare for new material.

Exit Tickets

Exit Tickets are short assignments completed at the end of class. They provide an opportunity to demonstrate understanding and reflect on learning.

Learning Reflections

Learning Reflections encourage you to review feedback, analyze mistakes, identify study strategies, and set goals for improvement.

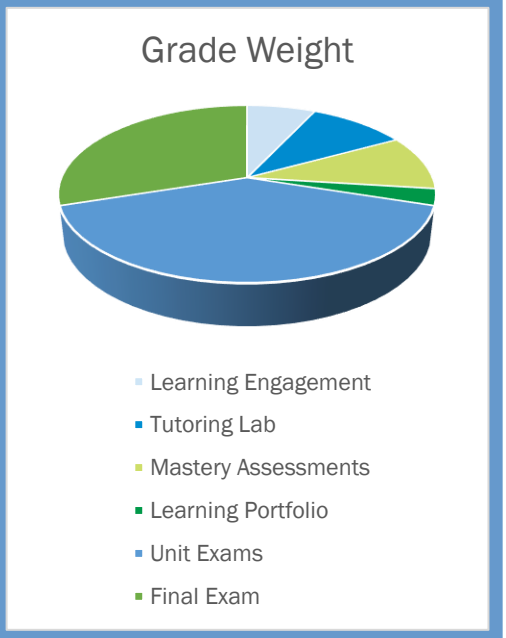
Assignment Weights

The 100-point system is used for grading, and 100 points will be the highest grade reported at the end of the semester. All assignments will add up to 100 points.

89.5 and above earns an A
79.5 - 89.49 earns a B
69.5 - 79.49 earns a C
59.5 - 69.49 earns a D
59.49 and below earns an F

- Tutoring Lab: 10 points
- Mastery Assessments: 10 points
- Learning Engagement: 7 points
- Learning Portfolios: 3 points
- Unit Exams: 40 points
- Final Exam: 30 points

To find the relative (percentage) grade, divide the total points by the possible points and multiply by 100.



Class Assignments Continued

Mastery Assessments (Worth 1 point each)
Weekly Mastery Assessments provide a snapshot of your understanding of the week's most important concepts and skills. A quiz will be given and completed in class. Assignments missed due to not being in class will not be allowed to be made up later. There will be thirteen (13) quizzes over the semester, with three (3) being extra credit.

Unit Exams (Worth 20 points each)
Unit Exams measure understanding of major concepts and learning objectives. Sections include Foundational Skills, Core Learning Outcomes, and Error Analysis. These are free-response assessments. You cannot use your notes or practice problems. Any missed exam will not be made up later. The purpose of the assignment is to give us a snapshot of the mastery of the unit material at that time. There will be two (2) exams over the semester with no extra credit.

Final Exam (Worth 30 points)
A comprehensive free-response assessment where you cannot use your notes or practice problems. If you do not attempt the Final Exam, you will earn an F for the class even if enough points to pass have been earned. There will only be one assignment at the end of the semester.

Mastery-Based Scoring Addendum for Mastery Assessments and Unit Exams
Weekly Mastery Assessments and Unit Exams are scored using a mastery-based approach. Points are awarded for correct work and demonstrated understanding. Scoring continues until a mathematical error or misconception is encountered. Once an error occurs, no additional points are earned for work that depends on that error. This scoring method emphasizes understanding, accuracy, and attention to detail while encouraging students to learn from mistakes through feedback, corrections, and reflection.

Why do we use mastery-based scoring? In mathematics, each step often depends on the previous step being correct. Mastery-based scoring encourages careful thinking, accuracy, and understanding rather than guessing or collecting points from partially correct work. The goal is to help students identify misconceptions, learn from mistakes, and develop stronger mathematical habits over time.

Expectations of the Instructor

- Show up, as scheduled.
- Provide notice of any schedule changes.
- Keep Blackboard updated with grades and materials.
- Present the material in a way that most of the class can understand.
- Be available to those who need assistance outside of the classroom, by e-mail or in person, during office hours or scheduled appointment times.
- Maintain the course calendar and assignments.
- Uphold the policies of the college.
- Respect each student and provide the opportunity to discuss the material presented.
- Provide examinations based on the information discussed in the course material.

Participation Expectations

Accountability
If you miss an assignment or fall behind, all notes are on Blackboard for you to access. Late coursework is not accepted, nor will it be allowed to be taken or submitted after the due date.

Communication
Communication is key. If you have an emergency, please let me know by email or phone immediately. Letting me know the following day or later makes it difficult for me to discern and assess your situation. Therefore, this makes it harder to help and work with you.

Integrity
The focus of higher education is to foster learning and encourage critical thinking. While taking shortcuts to save time or earn a grade may seem like a good idea, the results are usually lower scores and the loss of the opportunity to learn the material. The consequences of being caught cheating could range from a zero on the assignment to being expelled from South Plains College and the action being recorded on your academic record.

Reasonable Flexibility
Extra credit points are available for all students. If you should miss an assignment deadline, those extra credit points can "replace" the missed points.

Blackboard Messages and Email

Emails Should Include

- Your first and last name
- Your class name and section
- Your questions and/or comments in the body of the email (not subject line)

The Instructor Will

- Check their email regularly during weekdays before 7:00 pm
- Do their best to respond within 24 hours

The Instructor Will Not

- Always respond immediately on weekends or holidays
- Respond to parents or counselors. You are the student in an adult class and should communicate for yourself

Inspirational Quotes

The person who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; the one who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.
- Chinese Proverb

I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.
- Thomas Jefferson

Learning is never done without errors and defeat.
- Vladimir Lenin

However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at.
- Stephen Hawking

Your talents and abilities will improve over time, but for that, you have to start.
- Martin Luther King, Jr

Student Resources

Class Resources
In our Blackboard course, there are many resources to help us succeed.

- All notes written in class can be found in your Class OneNote Notebook, which has a link provided in Blackboard for us to access after entering our SPC credentials.

- Under Additional Resources are study tips, prerequisite math rules, graph paper, and online resources.

Free SPC Tutoring
South Plains College provides free tutoring to students. The most current schedule can be found on the SPC Tutoring Website or this QR Code.

SPC Policies
South Plains College policies concerning diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry Statements can be found here on the SPC Policies Website or this QR Code.

South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here on the SPC COVID-19 Policy Webpage.

Real Life Emergency Help

Sometimes life happens and we need help. This is the reason the South Plains College Health and Wellness Center has provided a list of emergency resources. This list includes, but is not limited to community food assistance, help paying bills, and other free or reduced cost programs. To find this list, please click on the *Emergency Resources* tab, and click the linked here. The site is found at Health and Wellness Center or this QR Code.

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE
MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Fall 2026 MATH-0305 Tentative Calendar

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Tutoring Lab Due	Mastery Assessment Due	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Exam Due
0	Thu	20 Aug	• Class Introduction • Blackboard Orientation	Not due this week	Not due this week	Not due this week	Not due this week	***Preparatory Assignments*** Sun, 30 Aug by 23:30 (11:30 pm)
	Fri	21 Aug						
1	Mon	24 Aug	• Introduction • **Math Study Skills 1:** Tips for Success in Math Classes • **Notes 1:** Adding & Subtracting Whole Numbers (including basic facts)	Not due this week	Thu, 27 Aug by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**	Tue, 6 Oct by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**	Tue, 29 Sep by 13:00 (1:00 pm) **In Class**	**Tue, 29 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class**
	Tue	**25 Aug**						
	Wed	26 Aug						
	Thu	**27 Aug**						
	Fri	28 Aug						
2	Mon	31 Aug	• **Math Study Skills 2:** Time Management • **Notes 2:** Multiplying & Dividing Whole Numbers (including basic facts) • **Notes 3:** Introduction to Integers, Absolute Value, Additive Inverses, Adding & Subtracting Integers	Not due this week	Thu, 3 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**			
	Tue	**1 Sep**						
	Wed	2 Sep						
	Thu	**3 Sep**						
	Fri	4 Sep						
3	Mon	7 Sep	• **Math Study Skills 3:** Overcoming Anxiety • **Notes 4:** Multiplying & Dividing Integers • **Notes 5:** Evaluating Exponents, Prime Factoring & Square Roots	**South Plains College Closed – No Classes – Labor Day**				
	Tue	**8 Sep**		Sat, 12 Sep by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Thu, 10 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**	Tue, 6 Oct by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**	Tue, 29 Sep by 13:00 (1:00 pm) **In Class**	
	Wed	9 Sep						
	Thu	**10 Sep**						
	Fri	11 Sep						

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Tutoring Lab Due	Mastery Assessment Due	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Exam Due
4	Mon	14 Sep	• **Math Study Skills 4:** Preparing for a Math Test • **Notes 6:** Finding Greatest Common Factor (GCF) & Least Common Multiple (LCM) • **Notes 7:** Simplifying Fractions, Finding Reciprocals, Multiplying & Dividing Fractions	Sat, 19 Sep by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Thu, 17 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**	Tue, 6 Oct by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**	Tue, 29 Sep by 13:00 (1:00 pm) **In Class**	**Tue, 29 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class**
	Tue	**15 Sep**						
	Wed	16 Sep						
	Thu	**17 Sep**						
	Fri	18 Sep						
5	Mon	21 Sep	• **Math Study Skills 5:** Math Test-Taking Strategies • **Notes 8:** Adding & Subtracting Fractions; Mixed Numbers • ***Unit 1 Exam Review (Weeks 1–5)***	Sat, 26 Sep by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Thu, 24 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**			
	Tue	**22 Sep**						
	Wed	23 Sep						
	Thu	**24 Sep**						
	Fri	25 Sep						
6	Mon	28 Sep	• **Unit 1 Exam (Weeks 1-5)**	Sat, 3 Oct by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Not due this week		Thu, 5 Nov by 13:00 (1:00 pm) **In Class**	**Thu, 5 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class**
	Tue	**29 Sep**						
	Wed	30 Sep	• **Notes 9:** Decimal Places, Adding & Subtracting Decimals					
	Thu	**1 Oct**						
	Fri	2 Oct						
7	Mon	5 Oct	• **Math Study Skills 6:** After Math Test Behavior • **Notes 10:** Multiplying & Dividing Decimals • **Notes 11:** Percents, Converting Between Fractions, Decimals & Percents	Sat, 10 Oct by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Thu, 8 Oct by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**	Thu, 12 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**		
	Tue	**6 Oct**						
	Wed	7 Oct						
	Thu	**8 Oct**						
	Fri	9 Oct						

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Tutoring Lab Due	Mastery Assessment Due	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Exam Due
8	Mon	12 Oct	• **Math Study Skills 7:** How to Read & Use Class Material • **Notes 12:** Order of Operations • **Notes 13:** Evaluating Algebraic Expressions	Sat, 17 Oct by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Thu, 15 Oct by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**	Thu, 12 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**	Thu, 5 Nov by 13:00 (1:00 pm) **In Class**	**Thu, 5 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class**
	Tue	**13 Oct**						
	Wed	14 Oct						
	Thu	**15 Oct**						
	Fri	16 Oct						
9	Mon	19 Oct	• **Math Study Skills 8:** Using Available Resources • **Notes 14:** Solving One-Step and Two-Step Equations (include single fraction) • **Notes 15:** Solving Multi-Step Equations	Sat, 24 Oct by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Thu, 22 Oct by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**			
	Tue	**20 Oct**						
	Wed	21 Oct						
	Thu	**22 Oct**						
	Fri	23 Oct						
10	Mon	26 Oct	• **Math Study Skills 9:** Note Taking for Math • **Notes 16:** Percent Equations, Applications of Linear Equations • **Notes 17:** Solving Linear Inequalities	Sat, 31 Oct by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Thu, 29 Oct by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**			
	Tue	**27 Oct**						
	Wed	28 Oct						
	Thu	**29 Oct**						
	Fri	30 Oct						
11	Mon	2 Nov	• ***Unit 2 Exam Review (Weeks 1–10)*** • **Unit 2 Exam (Weeks 1-10)**	Sat, 7 Nov by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Not due this week			
	Tue	**3 Nov**						
	Wed	4 Nov						
	Thu	**5 Nov**						
	Fri	6 Nov						
12	Mon	9 Nov	• **Math Study Skills 10:** Improving Memory • **Notes 18:** Rules of Exponents, Part 1 • **Notes 19:** Rules of Exponents, Part 2	Sat, 14 Nov by 23:59 (11:59 pm) **Tutor Lab**	Thu, 12 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) **In Class**		Thu, 10 Dec by 10:15 (10:15 am) **In Class**	**Thu, 10 Dec by 12:15 (12:15 pm) In Class**
	Tue	**10 Nov**						
	Wed	11 Nov						
	Thu	**12 Nov**						
	Fri	13 Nov						

<table>
<tr><th>Week</th><th>Day</th><th>Date</th><th>Topic</th><th>Tutoring Lab Due</th><th>Mastery Assessment Due</th><th>Learning Reflection Due</th><th>Portfolio Due</th><th>Exam Due</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">13</td><td>Mon</td><td>16 Nov</td><td rowspan="5">• Math Study Skills 11: Preparing for a Math Final Exam
• Notes 20: More with Rules of Exponents
• Notes 21: Intro to Polynomials; Add, Subtract, Multiply Polynomials (including 2 variables), Divide by a Monomial</td><td rowspan="5">Sat,
21 Nov by 23:59
(11:59 pm)
Tutor Lab</td><td rowspan="5">Thu,
19 Nov by 14:15
(2:15 pm)
In Class</td><td rowspan="6">No more due</td><td rowspan="6">Thu,
10 Dec by 10:15
(10:15 am)
In Class</td><td rowspan="15">Thu,
10 Dec by 12:15
(12:15 am)
In Class</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tue</td><td>17 Nov</td></tr>
<tr><td>Wed</td><td>18 Nov</td></tr>
<tr><td>Thu</td><td>19 Nov</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fri</td><td>20 Nov</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">14</td><td>Mon</td><td>23 Nov</td><td rowspan="5">• Notes 22: Coordinate Plane Basics
• Notes 23: Intro to Lines & Slope</td><td>Not due this week</td><td>Not due this week</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tue</td><td>24 Nov</td><td rowspan="4" colspan="4">South Plains College Closed – No Class – Thanksgiving Break</td></tr>
<tr><td>Wed</td><td>25 Nov</td></tr>
<tr><td>Thu</td><td>26 Nov</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fri</td><td>27 Nov</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">15</td><td>Mon</td><td>30 Nov</td><td rowspan="5">• Notes 24: Graphing Linear Equations
• Comprehensive Final Exam Review (Weeks 1-15)</td><td>Not due this week</td><td>Thu,
3 Dec by 14:15
(2:15 pm)</td><td>No more due</td><td>Thu,
10 Dec by 10:15
(10:15 am)
In Class</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tue</td><td>1 Dec</td></tr>
<tr><td>Wed</td><td>2 Dec</td></tr>
<tr><td>Thu</td><td>3 Dec</td><td colspan="4">Last Day to Drop a Class</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fri</td><td>4 Dec</td><td></td><td>In Class</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">16</td><td>Mon</td><td>7 Dec</td><td rowspan="3">Study for the Comprehensive Final Exam (Weeks 1-15)</td><td rowspan="3">Not due this week</td><td rowspan="3">Not due this week</td><td rowspan="3">No more due</td><td rowspan="3">Thu,
10 Dec by 10:15
(10:15 am)
In Class</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tue</td><td>8 Dec</td></tr>
<tr><td>Wed</td><td>9 Dec</td></tr>
<tr><td>Thu</td><td>10 Dec</td><td colspan="5">Comprehensive Final Exam (Weeks 1-15)
from 10:15 (10:15 am) until 12:15 (12:15 pm)
In Class</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fri</td><td>11 Dec</td><td colspan="7">Graduation</td></tr>
</table>