



**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

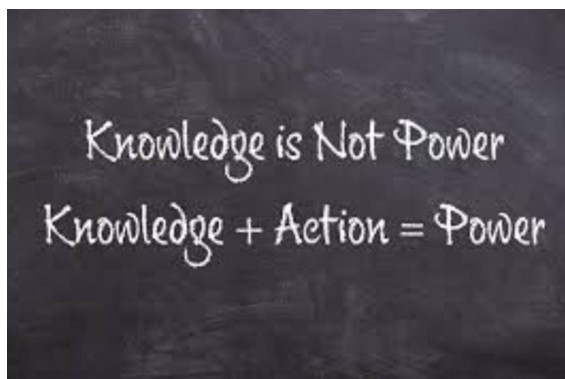
Last Day to Drop
Thursday, 3 December 2026

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

College Algebra

MATH-0314/1314-C604

Fall 2026



Welcome to College Algebra

This is a face-to-face course that meets twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 am at the Lubbock Downtown Center, room B010, in Lubbock, TX.

Are you ready to build a strong foundation in essential algebraic concepts, problem-solving, and understanding relationship skills that you'll need for future math courses, particularly calculus, and for many quantitative reasoning fields?

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)

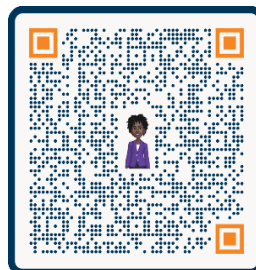
The virtual link is also found in the Blackboard Course:

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:

- Demonstrate and apply knowledge of properties of functions, including domain and range, operations, compositions, and inverses.
- Recognize and apply polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions and solve related equations.
- Apply graphing techniques.
- Evaluate all roots of higher-degree polynomials and rational functions.
- Recognize, solve, and apply systems of linear equations using matrices.

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.
- **Web camera, microphone, and speakers**
The computer accessories can be internal or external, but they must be in good working condition.
- **Non-Programmable Scientific Calculator (No Graphing Calculator)**
Graphing calculators will not be allowed during this class. The following calculators are recommended: TI-36X Pro or Casio fx-115 or equivalent.

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

Gradescope

We will use Gradescope this term, which allows us to provide fast and accurate feedback on your work. Homework will be submitted through Gradescope, and homework and exam grades will be returned through Gradescope. As soon as grades are posted, you will be notified immediately so that you can log in and see your feedback. You may also submit regrade requests if you feel that there is a mistake in the grading.

You can use your phone's camera or another scanner to upload work to Gradescope. Download the Gradescope mobile app on the App Store or Google Play to use your phone's camera and follow the prompts. If you cannot scan your assignments for any reason, please get in touch with me to make alternative arrangements. All submissions to Gradescope must be clear, legible, and double-checked to ensure all answers are properly marked. You will receive an email confirmation once your assignment is successfully submitted; please retain this for your records.

Honorlock

Honorlock will proctor your exams this semester. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from home. You do not need to create an account or schedule an appointment in advance.

Honorlock is available 24/7, and all required is a computer, a working webcam/microphone, your ID, and a stable internet connection.

You will need Google Chrome and download the Honorlock Chrome Extension to get started.

When you are ready to complete your assessment, log into your LMS, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking "Launch Proctoring" will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself and show your ID. You may be prompted to complete a room scan during the authentication steps. This is a test taker authentication step in which you will be asked to perform a 360-degree scan of your environment with the computer or webcam to confirm the integrity of the testing environment. Honorlock will be recording your exam session through your webcam and microphone and recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. You may contact them through live chat on the support page or within the exam itself if you encounter any issues.

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

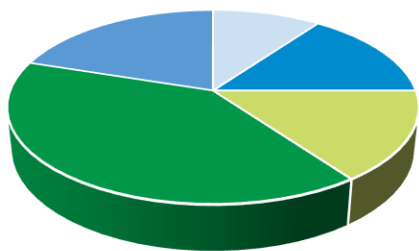
The 100-point system is used for grading, and 100 points will be the highest grade reported at the end of the semester. All assignments will add up to 100 points.

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

- Mastery Assessments: 15 points
- Learning Engagement: 10 points
- Learning Portfolios: 15 points
- Unit Exams: 40 points
- Final Exam: 20 points

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

Grade Weight



- Learning Engagement
- Learning Portfolios
- Mastery Assessments
- Unit Exams
- Final Exam

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.

Learning Portfolios (Worth 3 points 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 five (5) portfolio checks over the semester with no extra credit.

Learning Engagement Activities (Worth a total of 10 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 (Worth 0.2 points each)

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 (Worth 0.2 points each)

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

Learning Reflections (Worth 0.2 points each)

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

Assignment Weights

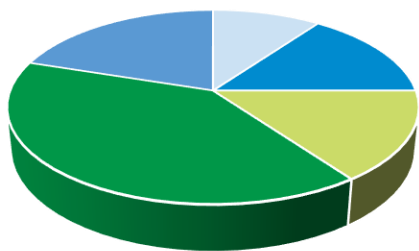
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Grade Weight



- Learning Engagement
- Learning Portfolios
- Mastery Assessments
- Unit Exams
- Final Exam

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. Free-response assessment where you can use your notes. The quiz will be given online on Blackboard. Upload work on Gradescope. There will be eleven (11) assessments, with one (1) assessment being extra credit. Any missed Mastery Assessment will not be allowed to be taken after the due date.

Unit Exams (Worth 10 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 given in class where you cannot use your notes or practice problems. Any missed exam will not be made up later. There will be four (4) exams with no extra-credit assignments.

Final Exam (Worth 20 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.

- 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.



Fall 2026 MATH-0314/1314 Tentative Calendar

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Mastery Assessment Due	Exam Due
0	Thu	20 Aug	- Blackboard Orientation - Algebra Review	Not due this week	Not due this week	Not due this week	Preparatory Assignments
	Fri	21 Aug					Sun, 30 Aug by 23:30 (11:30 pm)
1	Mon	24 Aug	- Class Introduction - Solving Linear Equations	Not due this week	Tue, 22 Sep by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Sun, 30 Aug by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock	Tue, 22 Sep by 12:45 (12:45 pm) In Class
	Tue	25 Aug					
	Wed	26 Aug					
	Thu	27 Aug					
	Fri	28 Aug					
2	Mon	31 Aug	- Characteristics of Linear Functions - Systems of Linear Equations	Thu, 3 Sep by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard		Sun, 6 Sep by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock	
	Tue	1 Sep					
	Wed	2 Sep					
	Thu	3 Sep					
	Fri	4 Sep					
3	Mon	7 Sep	South Plains College Closed – No Classes – Labor Day				
	Tue	8 Sep	- Introduction to Matrices - Gauss-Jordan Elimination - Determinants and Cramer’s Rule	Thu, 10 Sep by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Tue, 22 Sep by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Sun, 13 Sep by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock	
	Wed	9 Sep					
	Thu	10 Sep					
	Fri	11 Sep					
4	Mon	14 Sep	- Interval Notation Solving Linear Inequalities in One Variable - Systems of Linear Inequalities in Two Variables	Thu, 17 Sep by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard		Tue, 22 Sep by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Not due this week
	Tue	15 Sep					
	Wed	16 Sep					
	Thu	17 Sep	- Functions - Domain of Functions				
	Fri	18 Sep					

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Mastery Assessment Due	Exam Due
5	Mon	21 Sep	Unit 1 Exam: Linear Functions	Thu, 24 Sep by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard		Sun, 27 Sep by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock	
	Tue	22 Sep					
	Wed	23 Sep	- Library of Functions - Transformations				
	Thu	24 Sep					
	Fri	25 Sep					
6	Mon	28 Sep	- The Binomial Theorem - Operations on Functions - Complex Numbers - Solving Quadratic Equations	Thu, 1 Oct by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Tue, 13 Oct by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Sun, 4 Oct by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock	Tue, 13 Oct by 12:45 (12:45 pm) In Class
	Tue	29 Sep					
	Wed	30 Sep					
	Thu	1 Oct					
	Fri	2 Oct					
7	Mon	5 Oct	- Characteristics of Quadratic Functions - Distance Formula - Circles	Thu, 8 Oct by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard		Not due this week	
	Tue	6 Oct					
	Wed	7 Oct					
	Thu	8 Oct	- Solving Polynomial Equations by Factoring - Dividing Polynomials				
	Fri	9 Oct					
8	Mon	12 Oct	Unit 2 Exam: Introduction to Functions and Quadratic Functions	Thu, 15 Oct by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Tue, 3 Nov by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Sun, 18 Oct by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock	Tue, 3 Nov by 12:45 (12:45 pm) In Class
	Tue	13 Oct					
	Wed	14 Oct	Zeros of Polynomial Functions				
	Thu	15 Oct					
	Fri	16 Oct					

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Mastery Assessment Due	Exam Due
9	Mon	19 Oct	- Characteristics of Polynomial Functions - Solving Rational Equations - Characteristics of Rational Functions	Thu, 22 Oct by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Tue, 3 Nov by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Sun, 25 Oct by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock	Tue, 3 Nov by 12:45 (12:45 pm) In Class
	Tue	20 Oct					
	Wed	21 Oct					
	Thu	22 Oct					
	Fri	23 Oct					
10	Mon	26 Oct	Solving Polynomial and Rational Inequalities	Thu, 29 Oct by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Tue, 3 Nov by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Not due this week	Tue, 3 Nov by 12:45 (12:45 pm) In Class
	Tue	27 Oct					
	Wed	28 Oct					
	Thu	29 Oct	- Composite Functions - Inverse Functions				
	Fri	30 Oct					
11	Mon	2 Nov	Unit 3 Exam: Polynomial and Rational Functions	Thu, 5 Nov by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Tue, 17 Nov by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Sun, 8 Nov by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock	Tue, 17 Nov by 12:45 (12:45 pm) In Class
	Tue	3 Nov					
	Wed	4 Nov	- Characteristics of Exponential Functions - Characteristics of Logarithmic Functions				
	Thu	5 Nov					
	Fri	6 Nov					
12	Mon	9 Nov	- Properties of Logarithmic Functions - Solving Exponential and Logarithmic Equations	Thu, 12 Nov by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Tue, 17 Nov by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Not due this week	Tue, 17 Nov by 12:45 (12:45 pm) In Class
	Tue	10 Nov					
	Wed	11 Nov					
	Thu	12 Nov					
	Fri	13 Nov					

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Mastery Assessment Due	Exam Due	
13	Mon	16 Nov	Unit 4 Exam: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	Thu, 19 Nov by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Tue, 8 Dec by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Sun, 22 Nov by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock	Tue, 8 Dec by 12:15 (12:15 pm) In Class	
	Tue	17 Nov						
	Wed	18 Nov	- Solving Radical Equations - Rates of Change - Piecewise Functions					
	Thu	19 Nov						
	Fri	20 Nov						
14	Mon	23 Nov	- Solving Absolute Value Equations - Solving Absolute Value Inequalities	Thu, 26 Nov by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Sun, 29 Nov by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Use Honorlock			
	Tue	24 Nov		South Plains College Closed – No Class – Thanksgiving Break				
	Wed	25 Nov						
	Thu	26 Nov						
	Fri	27 Nov						
15	Mon	30 Nov	- Systems of Non-Linear Equations - Systems of Non-Linear Inequalities - Partial Fractions	Thu, 3 Dec by 23:30 (11:30 pm)	Tue, 8 Dec by 11:00 (11:00 am)	Sun, 6 Dec by 23:30 (11:30 pm)		
	Tue	1 Dec		Last Day to Drop a Class				
	Wed	2 Dec		Blackboard	In Class	Use Honorlock		
	Thu	3 Dec						
	Fri	4 Dec						
16	Mon	7 Dec	Study for the Final Exam	Tue, 8 Dec by 23:30 (11:30 pm) Blackboard	Tue, 8 Dec by 11:00 (11:00 am) In Class	Not due this week		
	Tue	8 Dec	Comprehensive Final Exam 10:15 (10:15 am) In Class					
	Wed	9 Dec	Semester Over					
	Thu	10 Dec						
	Fri	11 Dec	Graduation					