



Common Course Syllabus: College Algebra (MATH 1314) Fall 2026

Department: Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science

Discipline: Mathematics

Course Number: MATH 1314

Sections: 611 & 613

Course Title: College Algebra

Available Formats: conventional, hybrid, internet, and ITV.

Campuses: Levelland, Downtown Center, Plainview Center, and Dual Credit. These sections meet face-to-face at the Lubbock Downtown Center campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week.

Section 611: 9:00-10:45 am, room B009

Section 613: 1:00-2:45 pm, room B009

Course Description: In-depth study and applications of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations using matrices. Additional topics such as sequences, series, probability, and conics may be included.

Prerequisite: Minimum score of 350 on the TSIA1, minimum score of 950 on the TSIA2, a diagnostic score of 6 on the TSIA2, TSI-exempt status, a successful completion with a grade of 'C' or better in MATH 0320, or successful completion of NCBM-0114.

Credit: 3

Lecture: 3

Lab: 1

Instructor: Jerod Clopton

Office: Lubbock Downtown Center, B019

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Email: jclopton@southplainscollege.edu

Email Policy: All students at South Plains College are assigned a standardized SPC e-mail account. Although personal email addresses will continue to be collected, the assigned SPC e-mail account will be used as the official channel of communication for South Plains College. The Student Correspondence Policy can be found at www.southplainscollege.edu. To access the SPC student e-mail account, log in to portal.office.com. (Copied from SPC Student Guide) Since all students have an assigned SPC email, the instructor will only acknowledge, respond, and send emails to your assigned SPC email. This ensures all correspondence from the instructor is received by the intended recipient.

- My expected response time for emails is as follows:
 - For emails sent on Monday-Thursday, I will attempt to respond within 24 hours.
 - For emails sent on Friday-Sunday, I may not respond until the following Monday.

Office Hours

Face-to-Face Office Hours

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:15 am-12:00 pm
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:00 am, 2:45-3:30 pm
- Fridays, 10:15-11:15 am

Virtual Office Hours

- Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 pm

Students are welcome to come by my office anytime during my scheduled office hours.

Face-to-face and virtual appointments may be scheduled by contacting me by email or in person, or by scheduling through Blackboard.

Textbook: A textbook is not required for this course; however, a recommended and freely available textbook for this course may be: College Algebra from OpenStax, Print ISBN 1938168380, Digital ISBN 1947172123, www.openstax.org/details/college-algebra
This textbook is also embedded in your Blackboard course for easier referencing. However, if you prefer a print copy as a reference tool, the ISBN is located at the web link above.

Supplies: Besides pencils (please show your work in pencil) and paper, you will need a scientific calculator and a small supply of graph paper. Calculators on cell phones, TI-89, TI-92, or TI-Inspire calculators, or any other electronic devices will not be allowed during testing without permission from the instructor. Make certain you have access to a scanner or scanning app. Gradescope is the recommended app.

Blackboard: Blackboard is the online course management system that will be utilized for this course. This course is supplemented online, so all access to course information and your instructor is through the Internet. This course syllabus, as well as all course materials, can be accessed through Blackboard. Login at <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>. The username and password should be the same as the MySPC and SPC email.

Username: first initial, last name, and last 4 digits of the Student ID

Password: Original Campus Connect Pin No. (found on SPC acceptance letter)

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Mathematics Foundational Component Area (020)

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

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

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course and receiving a passing grade, the student will be able to:

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

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: A pre- and post-test questions will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester

Course Evaluation: There will be departmental final exam questions given by all instructors. Expect assignments, labs, quizzes, and 4 scheduled exams throughout the course. Grades will be updated on Blackboard

during the semester. Your final average in the course will determine the letter grade posted on your transcript. This grade is determined by the following scale: A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-59%).

- Labs = 14%
- Unit Exams (3 total) = 66% (22% each)
- Final Exam = 20%

Homework: The purpose of homework assignments is to provide you, the student, with the opportunity to practice and master the material presented in the lectures. Your understanding of the material will be assessed through quizzes and exams.

Because homework is assigned as practice, rather than an assessment of mastery, it is not included as a percentage of the course grade. Instead, your homework average will be converted to bonus points that will be applied to your current grade at the end of the course using the following formula:

$$\text{Homework Bonus} = 0.05(\text{Homework Average})$$

Work the problems on the homework assignment. Check your work with the provided answer key. If you do not get a problem correct or do not understand how to solve the problem, seek to understand why (rework the problem, rewatch the lecture videos, email me, ...). The purpose of the homework is to help you identify and address those areas of difficulty before they are assessed on a quiz or exam.

Assignment Format and Policy: Follow these guidelines when doing and submitting work for homework assignments.

- Work on your own paper, not on the provided assignment papers.
- Write the question number.
- In solving the problem, show all required work.
- Clearly mark your answer.
- Check your answers in Blackboard to make certain you are practicing the exercises correctly.
- Write your name at the top of each page of your work.
- Submit the assignment in Gradescope as a single PDF file, preferably using the [Gradescope Mobile App](#). (PDF files can be generated easily using a scanner or many freely available phone apps, like CamScanner, Scannable, or OneDrive.)
- All homework assignments will be due before class, one week from the assigned date. (See the tentative course calendar for assignment due dates)

To receive full credit for a homework assignment, work and answers must be submitted for each problem on the homework assignment. Points will be deducted for problems not completed or for an insufficient amount of work shown.

Make certain to complete and submit assignments on time (or early). Early submissions are welcome! Late assignments will not be accepted.

If you are unable to use the Gradescope app to scan and upload your work into Gradescope, you should use your cell phone or scanner to scan your work into a single PDF file and upload your work to Gradescope through their Website. Not being able to use the Gradescope app is not an excuse for not turning in homework on time.

Lab Format and Policy: Expect a face-to-face lab to be administered during the last 30 minutes of each class meeting. You will be allowed to use your notes and/or homework during labs. No electronic communication devices (phones, smart watches, headphones, earbuds, etc.) are permitted during labs. There will be no make-up labs and no late submissions. The lowest five lab grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Exam Format and Policy: Face-to-face examinations will be given on specified days in the calendar below. Exams are to be taken during the class time. No electronic communication devices (phones, smart watches, headphones, earbuds, etc.) are permitted during examinations. No make-up exams will be given. The grade from the final exam (if higher than your lowest exam grade) will replace the lowest unit exam grade. The comprehensive final exam will be given on

- Section 611: Thursday, December 10, from 8:00-10:00 am
- Section 613: Thursday, December 10, from 10:15 am-12:15 pm

To maximize your potential for successfully completing this course:

- Log in to Blackboard daily.
- Watch the lecture videos and take notes on them.
- Thoroughly complete and submit the assignments on time.
- Practice the exercises repeatedly until you have full mastery of them.

Attendance/Student Engagement Policy: Attendance and engagement are the most critical activities for success in this course. The instructor maintains records of the student's attendance and submission of assignments throughout the semester. The student is expected to attend at least eighty percent (80%) of the **total** class meetings **and** submit at least eighty percent (80%) of the **total** class assignments to have the best chance of success. If the student fails to meet these minimum requirements, the instructor may remove the student from the class with an X, upon their discretion, to help the student from harming their GPA. If the student can not receive an X, the instructor will assign an F.

SPC Tutors: Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, and view tutoring locations.

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

Brainfuse: You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with Brainfuse each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Log into Blackboard, and click on the tools option from the left-hand menu bar. Click on the Brainfuse link and you will automatically be logged in for free tutoring. You may access Brainfuse tutors during the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 8 pm-8 am

6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

For questions regarding tutoring, please email tutoring@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-224

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism and Cheating Policy): “Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This idea applies to quizzes of whatever length as well to final examinations, to daily reports, and to term papers” (SPC General Catalog).

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail-order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain an unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Plagiarism and Cheating Statement: It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. (SPC General Catalog)

Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated in this course. Under the policies of South Plains College, punishment for cheating may include no credit (failing) on the assignment, quiz, exam, or the course.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect from the student and the instructor. Neither the instructor nor the student should be subject to others' rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning behavior. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

COVID Response: South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: [COVID Response \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://southplainscollege.edu/covid-response).

Diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, Campus Concealed Carry: South Plains College policies concerning diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry Statements can be found here: [Syllabus Statements \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://southplainscollege.edu/syllabus-statements).

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

Tentative Cour Calendar: MATH1314-611&613 Fall 2026			
Date	Day	Topic	Assignment and Quiz Due Dates
Week 1: Aug 24-28	Tue	- Course Introduction 0.0: Factoring Review	
	Thu	0.0: Factoring Review (continued) 1.1: Linear and Rational Equations	Lab 1
Week 2: Aug 31-Sep 4	Tue	1.1: Linear and Rational Equations (continued)	Lab 2
	Thu	1.2: Linear Applications	HW 0.0 Lab 3
Week 3: Sep 7-11 (Sep 7: Labor Day holiday)	Tue	1.3: Complex Numbers; Quadratic Equations Part 1	HW 1.1 Lab 3
	Thu	1.4: Quadratic Equations Part 2, Radical Equations	HW 1.2 Lab 4
Week 4: Sep 14-18	Tue	1.5: Other Types of Equations; Linear and Absolute Value Inequalities	HW 1.3 Lab 5
	Thu	Review for Exam 1	HW 1.4 Lab 6
Week 5: Sep 21-25	Tue	Exam 1	HW 1.5
	Thu	2.1: Functions and Their Graphs	Lab 7
Week 6: Sep 28-Oct 2	Tue	2.2: Linear Functions and Slope	Lab 8
	Thu	2.3: Distance, Midpoint, & Circles 2.4: Composite and Inverse Functions	HW 2.1 Lab 9
Week 7: Oct 5-9	Tue	2.5: Quadratic Functions and Synthetic Division	HW 2.2 Lab 10
	Thu	Review for Exam 2	HW 2.3 & HW 2.4 Lab 11
Week 8: Oct 12-16 (Oct 16: SPC Fall Break)	Tue	Exam 2	HW 2.5
	Thu	3.1: Polynomial Functions & Their Graphs	Lab 12
Week 9: Oct 19-23	Tue	3.2: Rational Functions & Their Graphs	Lab 13
	Thu	3.3: Polynomial & Rational Inequalities	HW 3.1 Lab 14
Week 10: Oct 26-30	Tue	3.4: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	HW 3.2 Lab 15
	Thu	3.5: Properties of Logarithms	HW 3.3 Lab 16
Week 11: Nov 2-6	Tue	3.6: Exponential and Logarithmic Equations	HW 3.4 Lab 17
	Thu	Review for Exam 3	HW 3.5 Lab 18

Week 12: Nov 9-13	Tue	• Exam 3	HW 3.6
	Thu	• 4.1: 2x2 Systems; 3x3 Systems	Lab 19
Week 13: Nov 16-20	Tue	• 4.1: 2x2 Systems; 3x3 Systems (continued)	Lab 20
	Thu	• 4.2: Matrix Solutions to Systems	Lab 21
Week 14: Nov 23-27 (Nov 25-27: Thanksgiving holiday)	Tue	• 4.3: Nonlinear Systems and Systems of Inequalities	HW 4.1 Lab 22
Week 15: Nov 30-Dec 4 (Dec 3 Last day to drop Fall courses)	Tue	• 4.4: Determinants and Cramer's Rule	HW 4.2 Lab 23
	Thu	• Review for Final Exam	HW 4.3 and HW 4.4
Week 16: Dec 7-10	Thu	Final Exam Thursday, December 10th • Section 611, 8:00-10:00 am • Section 613, 10:15 am-12:15 pm	

Note: Any changes to the tentative course calendar will be announced in class and through Blackboard.