

**College Algebra ~ MATH-1314-007**  
**T, Th 11:00 – 12:45 207**  
**Spring 2026 Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Pat OConnell  
**Office:** 207  
**Phone:** (806) 652 3325  
**E-Mail:** [poconnell@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:poconnell@southplainscollege.edu) Or [ooconnell.pat@lockneyisd.net](mailto:ooconnell.pat@lockneyisd.net)  
**Blackboard:** <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>

**Office Hours:** As listed below or by appointment.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs	Friday
Time	9:00-11:00	1:15-2:15	Class time	1:15-2:15	Class time

**Course Modality:** **Fully Face-to-Face** ~ In this course, classes will be held face-to-face, twice a week in a classroom, specifically Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 207.

**Textbook:** **NO TEXTBOOK IS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE!!** All resources for the course, including notes, assignments, etc., are available on Blackboard. However, if you'd like to purchase a textbook to have as an additional resource, the adopted textbook for the course is specified on Page 3 of this syllabus.

**Supplies:** You will need pencils, notebook paper, and a folder or binder. A non-graphing scientific calculator (such as a TI-30) is required. Calculators on cell phones or other electronic devices are not allowed.

You will need access to a working computer with reliable internet access. All homework will be submitted on paper at the beginning of the scheduled class. Make sure your work is clear, orderly and easy to read. These assignments will be returned to be used as a study guide.

**Blackboard:** All information and resources needed for this course are available on Blackboard. The syllabus, instructor contact information, and all course resources including notes, assignment documents, and lecture videos are stored there. Assignments due dates and exam dates are posted on the Blackboard calendar. I'll be posting your grades in the gradebook on Blackboard so that is where you can see what your grade is in the course at any time. You should get into the habit of checking Blackboard daily for pertinent information.

**Important Dates:** **Classes begin on January 13<sup>th</sup>.** Other important dates are listed below.

- **March 16-20** Spring Break
- **April 30** Last day to drop Spring semester courses
- **May 7** Final Exam

**Homework** Homework will be assigned regularly, and each assignment must be submitted on the day that it is due. Homework will be submitted the beginning of class. Late homework will not be accepted.

**Exams:** There will be four unit exams given during the semester and a comprehensive, departmental final exam given at the end of the semester. There are no exemptions for the final exam. If you are going to miss a unit exam, contact your instructor immediately, preferably prior to the exam. Makeup exams are given only under extremely rare and documented circumstances. Once you begin an exam, you cannot leave the room until the exam is submitted for grading.

**Grading Scheme:** Your grade in the course will be comprised of scores from the following categories. **This course and its grade will be recorded on your official transcript.** Grades will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

- Exams (Each exam will count 16% for a total of 64%). The following exam dates are tentative. Any changes to these dates will be announced in class.
  - Exam 1 ~ Tuesday, February 3
  - Exam 2 ~ Thursday, February 26
  - Exam 3 ~ Tuesday, March 31
  - Exam 4 ~ Thursday, April 23
- Homework (16%)
- Comprehensive Final Exam (20%) ~ Monday, May 8 @ 10:15 AM

**Where to Get Help:** Math can be challenging occasionally. Here are some ways in which you can receive quality assistance.

- As your instructor, I am the best resource for providing assistance. I am available during my office hours (both virtual and walk-in) and by appointment.
- **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, get to know the tutors, and view tutoring locations.  
<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>
- **Tutor.com** ~ You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with tutor.com each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Log into Blackboard, click on the tutor.com link on the left-hand tool bar, click on the tools option from the left-hand menu bar. Then, click on the Tutor.com link and you will automatically be logged in for free tutoring. You can access tutor.com tutors during the following times:
  - Monday – Thursday: 8pm-8am
  - 6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

**Responsibilities & Expectations:**

1. Attend class regularly, be on time, and be prepared to learn.
2. Be attentive, take notes, and fully participate in class.
3. **DO ALL HOMEWORK.** Fully invest yourself in the homework process so that you can maximize your potential to be successful in the course. Do your own work, show all work, and complete the homework early enough that you can seek help if needed. Always turn in your homework on time.
4. Food, drink, and tobacco products are not allowed in class, with the exception of bottled water.
5. Cell phones and any other electronic devices must be silenced and put away while you're in the classroom.
6. Reasonable standards of decency apply to the college community. The student should dress in a manner that does not distract from the academic atmosphere. Revealing attire or clothing carrying obscene or offensive slogans is not permitted. In all academic buildings, classrooms, offices, the Student Center, and dining facilities, students are required to wear shirts and shoes. Refrain from using offensive language, talking loudly or off-topic, or working on outside assignments.
7. Be respectful to others in the classroom and assist in maintaining an optimum learning environment for all. Any student who disrupts the learning environment will be asked to leave and may be dropped from the course.

**South Plains College**  
**Common Course Syllabus: MATH 1314**  
**Revised August 2021**

**Department:** Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science

**Discipline:** Mathematics

**Course Number:** MATH 1314

**Course Title:** College Algebra

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

**Campuses:** Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Center, and Dual Credit

**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**

**Textbook:** *College Algebra with Intermediate Algebra: A Blended Course*, Beecher, Penna, Johnson, and Bittinger, 2018, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Prentice Hall/Pearson Education→ **Please note, this textbook is NOT REQUIRED for this course!!** However, you have the option of purchasing this textbook as an additional resource for the course if you'd like to have one.

**Supplies:** Please see the instructor's course information sheet for specific supplies.

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

**COVID-19 (Rev. 8/17/2024)** If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Fever or chills
- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscles or body aches
- New loss of taste and smell
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, FNP-C, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or 806-716-2376

1. SPC will follow the recommended 3-day isolation period for individuals that test positive.
  - a. Please note that day 0 is the date of positive test. Day 1 begins the first full day after the date of positive result.

2. COVID reporting
  - a. Please have students and employees notify DeEtte Edens, FNP-C if they have tested positive to verify dates before returning to class or work.
  - b. The home tests are sufficient, but students need to submit a photo of the positive result. The date of test must be written on the test result and an ID included in the photo. If tested elsewhere (clinic, pharmacy, etc.), please submit a copy of the doctor's note or email notification. Results may be emailed to DeEtte Edens, FNP-C at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu).
  - c. A student is clear to return to class without further assessment if they have completed:
    - The 3-day isolation period, symptoms have improved and
    - they are afebrile for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
  - d. **HEATH SCIENCE PROGRAMS ONLY:** Due to clinical requirements, students in health science programs returning to class or clinical from a positive test will be required to wear a mask in the health sciences areas including offices, hallways, and classrooms, as well as in the clinical setting for a 10-day period from date of positive test.
3. Please instruct students and employees to communicate with DeEtte Edens prior to their return date if still symptomatic at the end of the 3-day isolation.
4. Exposed individuals will not be required to quarantine. If exposed, SPC does request individuals closely monitor themselves. If an individual does become symptomatic, please do not attend class or work and be tested.

**Student Code of Conduct Policy:** Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. 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.

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**Intellectual Exchange Statement** In South Plains College courses, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**Disability Statement:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**Nondiscrimination Policy:** South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

**Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement:** If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your

education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or [email r canon@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:r canon@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

**CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team** South Plains College is committed to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of its students and community. To support its campus community SPC has a CARE Team. This is a dedicated group of campus professionals responsible for assessing and responding to students who could benefit from academic, emotional, or psychological support, as well as those presenting risk to the health or safety of the community. If you see someone experiencing challenges, appearing distressed, posing a threat to their safety or someone else's safety, or causing a significant disruption to the SPC community, please submit a [CARE Team referral](#). You may also submit a referral for yourself if you would like additional support. NOTE: In cases where a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911

**Campus Concealed Carry:** Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

## **Artificial Intelligence Statement**

### **• Purpose of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications:**

AI applications such as ChatGPT, OpenAI, Bard, Grammarly, WordTune and others are advanced language models designed to aid and engage in meaningful conversations, as well as generate and revise content. AI is intended to supplement learning, stimulate critical thinking, and enhance academic discourse. However, its use comes with certain responsibilities.

### **• Academic Integrity:**

Using AI to generate academic work, including essays, reports, or assignments, without proper attribution is a violation of SPC academic integrity policies. Plagiarism undermines the learning process and is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure that their work reflects their own ideas, research, synthesis, and analysis and appropriately cite all sources, including AI.

### **• Collaboration and Consultation:**

While AI can be a valuable resource, it is essential to strike a balance between seeking assistance and maintaining personal responsibility. Collaboration with peers, consulting instructors, and utilizing other approved learning resources should be prioritized. Overreliance on AI for solutions without actively engaging in the learning process is discouraged and can be grounds for academic integrity violations. Utilizing AI as a tool for brainstorming or research is allowed but the writing should be the student's own work and thoughts.

### **• Critical Thinking and Originality:**

AI usage can provide suggestions and information, but it is essential to critically evaluate the responses and exercise independent thought. Relying solely on AI for answers deprives students of the opportunity to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. In assignments where originality, creativity, and independent thinking are valued, AI would be detrimental to the student learning process. Critical thinking and originality emphasize the importance of independent thinking in all academic endeavors as part of the student's learning experience apart from outside influence and offers the student the opportunity to refine their unique, individual voice through academic discourse with other students and faculty.

### **• Ethical Use and Bias Awareness:**

AI is trained on large amounts of data from the internet, which may include biased or inaccurate information. Be mindful of the potential for bias and critically evaluate the responses provided by AI.

Therefore, when using AI, just like using any other database, students must verify that the information is from reliable sources, question any potential biases, and ensure that the information and sources used in the paper are neutral, peer-reviewed sources.

**• Responsible Engagement:**

Students should engage with AI in a respectful and responsible manner and avoid using offensive language, discriminatory remarks, or engaging in any form of harassment or inappropriate behavior. Students should also uphold the standards of respectful communication in addressing both AI and fellow classmates.

**• Compliance with South Plains College Policies:**

Policies regarding the appropriate use of AI in South Plains College courses are set by instructional departments and individual instructors. Appropriate use of AI may range from strict prohibition to assignments they may require the use of AI. Misusing or violating the guidelines outlined in this syllabus warning may result in disciplinary action, including academic penalties. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the specific course policies regarding the use of AI and adhere to them throughout the semester.

**SPC Bookstore Price Match Guarantee Policy:** If you find a lower price on a textbook, the South Plains College bookstore will match that price. The difference will be given to the student on a bookstore gift certificate! The gift certificate can be spent on anything in the store.

If students have already purchased textbooks and then find a better price later, the South Plains College bookstore will price match through the first week of the semester. The student must have a copy of the receipt and the book has to be in stock at the competition at the time of the price match.

The South Plains College bookstore will happily match BN.com & books on Amazon noted as *ships from and sold by Amazon.com*. Online marketplaces such as *Other Sellers* on Amazon, Amazon's Warehouse Deals, *fulfilled by Amazon*, BN.com Marketplace, and peer-to-peer pricing are not eligible. They will price match the exact textbook, in the same edition and format, including all accompanying materials, like workbooks and CDs.

A textbook is only eligible for price match if it is in stock on a competitor's website at time of the price match request. Additional membership discounts and offers cannot be applied to the student's refund.

Price matching is only available on in-store purchases. Digital books, access codes sold via publisher sites, rentals and special orders are not eligible. Only one price match per title per customer is allowed.

**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.**