South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: College Algebra (MATH 1314)
Spring 2026

Department: Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science
Discipline: Mathematics
Course Number: MATH 1314
Section: 010 (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-2:15pm, Mathematics-Engineering building, room 108)
Course Title: College Algebra
Available Formats: conventional/flex, internet, and ITV. This class will be the conventional/flex format.
Campuses: Levelland, Plainview, Lubbock Downtown Center, and Dual Credit. This class meets face-to-face on the Levelland campus in the Mathematics-Engineering building, room 108.

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 (Intermediate Algebra), or successful completion of NCBM 0114.

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 1

Instructor: Jay Driver
Telephone: (806) 716-2780
Office: Math and Engineering building, office 114
Email: The instructor may be emailed through Blackboard or at jdriver@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.

Virtual/Face-to-Face Office Hours:

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:45am-12:00pm, 1:30-2:30pm;
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:45-11:30am;
- Fridays, 9:30-11:30am.
- And by appointment (contact me).

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 user name and password should be the same as the MySPC and SPC email.

User name: first initial, last name, and last 4 digits of the Student ID
Password: Original CampusConnect Pin No. (found on SPC acceptance letter)

Questions regarding Blackboard support may be emailed to blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or by telephone to 806-716-2962.

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: Pre- and post-test questions (assignments, quizzes, and major exams) will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

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 has more than six (6) absences or missed assignments, 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 cannot receive an X, the instructor will assign an F.

Course Evaluation: There will be departmental final exam questions given by all instructors. Assignments, labs, and quizzes will count for 20% of the final grade, while exams count for 80% of the final grade. Expect assignments, labs, quizzes, and 4 scheduled exams throughout the course. 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%).

- Assignments/Labs/Quizzes = 20%
- Exam 1 (covering Assignments 1-6) = 20%
- Exam 2 (covering Assignments 7-11) = 20%
- Exam 3 (covering Assignments 12-17) = 20%
- Exam 4 (covering Assignments 18-23 and major topics from previous exams) = 20%.

Assignments and Exams: The following is a sequential list of the assignments and exams.

1. Linear and Rational Equations
2. Linear Applications
3. Complex Numbers and Quadratic Equations (part 1 of 2)
4. Quadratic Equations (part 2 of 2)
5. Other Types of Equations
6. Linear and Absolute Value Inequalities

Exam 1 (20%)

7. Functions and Their Graphs
8. Linear Functions and Slope
9. Distance, Midpoint, and Circles
10. Combinations, Compositions, and Inverse Functions
11. Quadratic Functions

Exam 2 (20%)

12. Roots and Graphs of Polynomial Functions
13. Rational Functions and Their Graphs
14. Polynomial and Rational Inequalities
15. Exponential and Logarithmic Functions
16. Properties of Logarithms
17. Exponential and Logarithmic Equations

Exam 3 (20%)

18. 2x2 and 3x3 Linear Systems
19. Matrix Solutions to Systems
20. Partial Fractions
21. Nonlinear Systems and Systems of Inequalities
22. Determinants and Cramer's Rule
23. The Binomial Theorem

Exam 4 (20%)

Assignment/Lab Format and Policy:

- Labs are administered in-class, while assignments are to be completed outside of the class meeting time. In the event of an absence, make certain to get the lab downloaded from Blackboard, worked, and submitted with the assignment.
- Labs and assignments are given after each lesson and are collected in Gradescope by the beginning of the next class meeting. Late assignments are **not** accepted. Make certain to complete the assignments with enough time to get help, if needed. At the end of the semester, the lowest four daily grades (assignment, quiz) will be dropped.
- With each exercise of the assignment show all necessary work and 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 assignments/labs in Gradescope as a single pdf file, preferably using the Gradescope app.
- The following grading rubric is used for each assignment/lab submission.

100%	Completed assignment and lab; all work shown; selected exercises found accurate
95%	Completed assignment and lab; all work shown; missing accuracy on selected exercise
85%	Completed assignment and lab; all work shown; missing accuracy on a few selected exercises
75%	Completed assignment and lab; all work shown; missing accuracy on several selected exercises
75%	Lab missing
50%	Assignment incomplete and/or no work shown
0%	No assignment or lab submitted

Exam Format and Policy:

- There are four (4) units of study in this course. At the conclusion of each unit is a face-to-face examination on specified Thursdays in the calendar below from 12:30-2:15pm with the exception of the final exam, which is on Thursday, May 7, from 10:15am-12:15pm.
- No electronic communication devices (phones, smart watches, headphones, earbuds, etc.) are permitted during examinations.
- The final exam is cumulative with no exemptions.

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/explorepograms/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 tools option from the left-hand menu bar. Click on the Tutor.com link and you will automatically be logged in for free tutoring. You may access tutor.com tutors during the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 8pm-8am
6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

For questions regarding tutoring, please email tutoring@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-2241.

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.

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 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.

COVID Response: South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: COVID Response (southplainscollege.edu).

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).

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 Course Calendar: Below is a calendar view of assignment and exam due dates and times.

Day (Mon/Wed), Date	What is due before arriving to class that day?	Topic(s) to be discussed that day	Work to be done
Tue, Jan 13		Course Introduction Lesson 1: Linear and Rational Equations	Assignment 1
Thur, Jan 15	Assignment/Lab 1	Lesson 2: Linear Applications	Assignment 2
Mon, Jan 19	*Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday (SPC is closed)*	*Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday (SPC is closed)*	*Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday (SPC is closed)*
Tue, Jan 20	Assignment/Lab 2	Lesson 3: Complex Numbers & Quadratic Eqns (part 1 of 2)	Assignment 3
Thur, Jan 22	Assignment/Lab 3	Lesson 4: Quadratic Equations (part 2 of 2)	Assignment 4
Tue, Jan 27	Assignment/Lab 4	Lesson 5: Other Types of Equations	Assignment 5
Thur, Jan 29	Assignment/Lab 5	Lesson 6: Linear & Absolute Value Inequalities	Assignment 6
Tue, Feb 3	Assignment/Lab 6	Preparation for Exam 1	Study for Exam 1
Thur, Feb 5		Exam 1 (Thur, Feb 5) The exam will begin at 12:30pm and be due by 2:15pm.	Exam 1
Tue, Feb 10		Lesson 7: Functions and Their Graphs	Assignment 7
Thur, Feb 12	Assignment/Lab 7	Lesson 8: Linear Functions and Slope	Assignment 8
Tue, Feb 17	Assignment/Lab 8	Lesson 9: Distance, Midpoint, Circles	Assignment 9
Thur, Feb 19	Assignment/Lab 9	Lesson 10: Combinations, Compositions, and Inverses	Assignment 10
Tue, Feb 24	Assignment/Lab 10	Lesson 11: Quadratic Functions	Assignment 11
Thurs, Feb 26	Assignment/Lab 11	Lesson 12: Polynomial Functions	Assignment 12
Tue, Mar 3	Assignment/Lab 12	Preparation for Exam 2	Study for Exam 2
Thur, Mar 5		Exam 2 (Thur, Mar 5) The exam will begin at 12:30pm and be due by 2:15pm.	Exam 2
Tue, Mar 10		Lesson 13: Rational Functions	Assignment 13
Thur, Mar 12	Assignment/Lab 13	Lesson 14: Polynomial & Rational Inequalities	Assignment 14
Mon-Fri, Mar 16-20	*Spring Break (SPC is closed)*	*Spring Break (SPC is closed)*	*Spring Break (SPC is closed)*
Tue, Mar 24	Assignment/Lab 14	Lesson 15: Exponential & Logarithmic Functions	Assignment 15
Thur, Mar 26	Assignment/Lab 15	Lesson 16: Properties of Logs	Assignment 16
Tue, Mar 31	Assignment/Lab 16	Lesson 17: Exp. and Log. Equations	Assignment 17
Thur, Apr 2	Assignment/Lab 17	Lesson 18: 2x2 and 3x3 Systems	Assignment 18
Fri, Apr 3	*Easter holiday (SPC is closed)*	*Easter holiday (SPC is closed)*	*Easter holiday (SPC is closed)*

Tue, Apr 7	Assignment/Lab 18	Preparation for Exam 3	Study for Exam 3
Thur, Apr 9		Exam 3 (Thur, Apr 9) The exam will begin at 12:30pm and be due by 2:15pm.	Exam 3
Tue, Apr 14		Lesson 19: Matrix Solutions to Systems	Assignment 19
Thur, Apr 16	Assignment/Lab 19	Lesson 20: Partial Fractions	Assignment 20
Tue, Apr 21	Assignment/Lab 20	Lesson 21: Nonlinear Systems and Systems of Inequalities	Assignment 21
Thur, Apr 23	Assignment/Lab 21	Lesson 22: Determinants & Cramer's Rule	Assignment 22
Tue, Apr 28	Assignment/Lab 22	Lesson 23: The Binomial Theorem	Assignment 23
Thur, Apr 30	Assignment/Lab 23	Preparation for Exam 4 (the cumulative final exam)	Study for Exam 4 (the cumulative final exam)
Thur, May 7		Exam 4 (This exam is the cumulative final exam that will be from 10:15am-12:15pm in M108.)	Final Exam