South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: MATH 1314
Spring 2026

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, Plainview, Lubbock Downtown 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

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 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.

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. 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 cannot receive an X, the instructor will assign an F.

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 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.

Other Policies:
For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/.

South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to alter any class policies/dates as deemed necessary by the instructor. If there are any changes, they will be announced over Blackboard and via your SPC email.

Spring 2026
Online College Algebra: Math 1314.151

Instructor	Traci Sanders	**Phone**	806-716-4616
E-mail	tsanders@southplainscollege.edu	**Office**	Downtown Center B021

Office Hours:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:45 – 12:45	10:45 – 12:45		10:45 – 12:45	9:00 – 11:00

To arrange a time to meet on zoom, just send me an email.

Communication: Email is the best form of communication to reach me. You can email me at tsanders@southplainscollege.edu. All email correspondence should come from your SPC email address. If you need help with your SPC email, you can call the Help Desk at 806-716-2600. Please give me up to 24 hours to respond via email. If you email about a specific math question, please attach a picture of the question and the work that you have tried. When I post an announcement in Blackboard, the announcement will also be sent to your SPC email address. Please check your SPC email daily!

SPC Tutoring: 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 Online Tutoring: 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

Text: No textbook is required.

Required Materials: laptop or desktop computer access , good internet connection, printer, webcam, method of scanning, notebook paper, pencils, straightedge, scientific or graphing calculator
If you use a graphing calculator, it cannot be a TI-89 or TI-Nspire.
If you do not already have a calculator, I recommend the TI-30XIIS scientific calculator.
Phone / tablet / laptop / smart watch calculators will not be allowed.
I recommend keeping your notes and homework in a binder to stay organized.

Blackboard Ultra: https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com
Blackboard Ultra is the online course management system that we will use for this course. For technical support, call 806-716-2180 or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu.

Scanning Assignments: Your work will have to be scanned as a pdf file to be uploaded to Blackboard. There are many free mobile apps available for scanning. Some of these are the Notes App (on iPhones), OneDrive (free to SPC students), Scannable, and CamScanner. You do not have to choose one of these, but please determine an app you want to use for scanning and then practice scanning multiple pages as one pdf file. The app will allow you to name the file and save it.

Attendance: Your attendance is monitored through completion of assignments. If you miss 7 assignments, the instructor may withdraw you from the course with a grade of X. If you wish to drop

this class, you should submit a **Student Initiated Drop Form** online**.** Students should communicate with instructors or advisors prior to dropping a course when they are able.

Lesson Videos and Notes: There are videos and notes posted in Blackboard for each section. To find the videos and notes, click on the unit under Course Content and then the folder for the section on which you are working. Print the notes. Watch the videos to fill in the notes and learn the material for each section. The deadlines for turning in notes are given in the course calendar. **Notes will not be accepted late!** Notes may be turned in early. Scan all pages of the notes as one pdf file and upload the notes to Blackboard by clicking on the unit and then the notes assignment link. On notes, homework, quizzes, and tests, your work needs to follow the work in the videos. If your work does not follow the work in the videos, you will not receive credit.

Homework: There is a homework assignment posted in Blackboard for each section. Homework is located in the same folder as the videos and notes. Homework should be completed on notebook paper with work shown. The answers are given so that you can check your answers and make sure you are working the problems correctly. Homework is for practice only and will not count as a grade. If you need help with a homework problem, email me a picture of your work. Working through the homework and studying the problems will help you prepare for quizzes and tests! Doing the homework is a key to success in this course!

Quizzes: The deadlines for the quizzes are given in the course calendar. Quizzes are due at 11:59 pm. There will be **NO LATE QUIZZES!** You may turn in quizzes early. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. To find quizzes, click on the unit under Course Content. Click on the quiz link to open the quiz. The quizzes will be multiple choice, and you will click on your answer choice in Blackboard. Some of the problems will require work to be shown. For those problems, you will write down your work on notebook paper. All pages of your work will need to be scanned and saved as **one pdf file** and uploaded to Blackboard by clicking on the quiz work link. Blackboard will show your unofficial quiz grade after you submit the quiz. I will grade your work. If you choose the correct answer in Blackboard, but your work is not correct, you will lose credit for that problem. The work needs to follow what I have taught in the videos. You are not allowed to use a math app to show you how to do the work! Once I have graded your work, then you will see your official quiz grade. You will be able to see which problems you missed once the deadline has passed. You are allowed to use notes and homework on the quizzes but no electronic devices other than a calculator.

Tests: There will be 3 tests and a comprehensive final exam. There will be **NO LATE TESTS!** Dates for all tests are given in the course calendar, so **PLAN AHEAD!** Tests will open at 7:00 am and close at 11:59 pm. Once you begin the test, you will have two hours to complete it. You will be allowed one 8.5" by 11" sheet of notes (front only) on the tests. You will not be allowed any electronic devices other than a calculator. You have two options for test-taking. One option is to take the tests online in Blackboard and be proctored using an online proctoring program called Honorlock. This option requires you to have a webcam. The tests will be multiple choice with some problems that require work to be shown. For those problems, you will write down your work on notebook paper. All pages of your work will need to be scanned and saved as **one pdf file** and uploaded to Blackboard by clicking on the test work link. Blackboard will show your unofficial test grade after you submit the test. I will grade your work. If you choose the correct answer in Blackboard, but your work is not correct, you will lose credit for that problem. Once I have graded your work, then you will see your official test grade. You will be able to see which problems you missed once the deadline has passed.

The other option is to come to the Downtown Center campus and take the tests on paper in the classroom. The in-person tests will be offered on the same dates as the online tests, and those dates are on the course calendar. If you take your tests in the classroom, the time choices are 9:00 or 11:00.

Showing Work: To receive full credit on notes, quizzes, and tests, you must show all work that leads to your answers on the problems that require work to be shown. The work must be legible and easy to follow. The problems on your work must be numbered with the same numbering as the quiz or test.

Honorlock: Honorlock is an online proctoring service that will record you as you take your tests. You must use Google Chrome to take your tests, and you will need to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension. The instructions for downloading and using Honorlock will be posted in Blackboard. Honorlock requires a laptop or desktop computer, a webcam/microphone, your ID, and a stable internet connection.

Guidelines for using Honorlock:
• You must show your workspace. Your workspace is your desk area, not just your face. You may have to slide your computer back or place it to the side so that the camera picks up your writing space.
• You must put your cell phone on the corner of your workspace in the camera view and you are not allowed to use it during the test. Your calculator and paper also need to be in camera view.
• You are not allowed to have another person in the camera view or talk to another person.
• You must show your ID right side up.
• You must have good light so you and your workspace can be seen clearly.
• You are not allowed to move out of the camera view at any time during your test.
• Once you are finished with the test, BEFORE you hit submit, grab your cell phone and scan your work using a mobile scanning app. Once you scan, you are NOT allowed to write anything else on your paper.
• After you click submit, you have 15 minutes to upload your work to Blackboard.
• If any one of these guidelines is not followed, you will receive a zero on your test.

Grading Policy: Grades will be averaged according to the following percentages:

Notes Average	10%
Quiz Average	10%
Test Average	60%
Final Exam	20%

In the Blackboard gradebook, your course average will be called "Overall Grade." This is the number you should look at throughout the semester to see your current average in the course. Do the best you can on every assignment throughout the entire semester. There will not be extra credit offered at the end of the semester to bump up your grade.

Grading Scale:
A: 90 and above, B: 80 – 89, C: 70 – 79, D: 60 – 69, F: 59 or below

Academic Dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please see the list of things that constitute plagiarism and cheating in the general syllabus. If you violate anything on those lists, you will receive a zero on the assignment and could be subject to other actions outlined in the South Plains College Student Code of Conduct. Please note that these actions could include failing the course and being expelled from the college.

To maximize your potential for successfully completing this course:

- Get in the habit of thinking and saying positive things about math every time you work on it. Your brain will learn much easier that way.
- Do math every day, even if it's just a little.
- Remind yourself often of the math you have learned by looking back over your notes.
- Ask for help when needed.
- Print the notes. Engage your brain and take good notes during the lecture videos.
- Thoroughly complete notes, homework, quizzes, and tests.
- Practice the problems repeatedly until you have full mastery of them.

Online College Algebra Course Calendar
Spring 2026

This calendar shows which sections need to be completed each week. The material for each week is located in Blackboard under Course Content. For each section, you should print the notes for that section, watch the videos to fill in the notes, and then do the homework on that section. Deadlines are given in the third column and are non-negotiable. **The time for all the deadlines is 11:59 pm.** I recommend working on this course a little bit each day. Do not wait until the deadline to do the work! Excellent time management is critical to successful course completion!

Grading Policy: Notes Average=10%, Quiz Average=10%, Test Average=60%, Final Exam=20%

Dates	Sections	Deadlines
Week 1: Jan 12 – 17	Factoring Review Section 1.1	Tues, Jan 13 – Syllabus Acceptance Email & Student Photo ID Due (See the Day One Checklist) Wed, Jan 14 – Factoring Review Notes Due (See the Day One Checklist) Thurs, Jan 15 – Notes 1: 1.1 Due Fri, Jan 16 – Finish Factoring & 1.1 Homework *(Homework is for practice and does not need to be turned in.)* Sat, Jan 17 – Quiz 1: Factoring, 1.1 Due
Week 2: Jan 18 – 24 *Jan 19 MLK Jr Holiday*	Section 1.2 Section 1.3	Thurs, Jan 22 – Notes 2: 1.2, 1.3 Due Fri, Jan 23 – Finish 1.2 & 1.3 Homework Sat, Jan 24 – Quiz 2: 1.2,1.3 Due
Week 3: Jan 25 – 31	Section 1.4 Section 1.5	Mon, Jan 26 – **Honorlock Practice Test Due** Thurs, Jan 29 – Notes 3: 1.4, 1.5 Due Fri, Jan 30 – Finish 1.4 & 1.5 Homework Sat, Jan 31 – Quiz 3: 1.4,1.5 Due
Week 4: Feb 1 – 7	Section 1.6 Review Unit 1	Thurs, Feb 5 – Notes 4: 1.6 Due Fri, Feb 6 – Finish 1.6 Homework & Work on Review Sat, Feb 7 – Quiz 4: 1.6 Due
Week 5: Feb 8 – 14	Section 2.1 Section 2.2	Sun, Feb 8 – Study! Mon, Feb 9 – **Test 1 Due – Covers Unit 1** (offered in person 9:00 – 11:00, Downtown Center-Room 011) Thurs, Feb 12 – Notes 5: 2.1,2.2 Due Fri, Feb 13 – Finish 2.1 & 2.2 Homework Sat, Feb 14 – Quiz 5: 2.1,2,2 Due
Week 6: Feb 15 – 21	Section 2.3 Section 2.4 Section 2.5	Thurs, Feb 19 – Notes 6: 2.3, 2.4,2.5 Due Fri, Feb 20 – Finish 2.3, 2.4, & 2.5 Homework Sat, Feb 21 – Quiz 6: 2.3 2.4,2.5 Due
Week 7: Feb 22 – 28	Section 2.6 Section 2.7 Review Unit 2	Thurs, Feb 26 – Notes 7: 2.6,2.7 Due Fri, Feb 27 – Finish 2.6 & 2.7 Homework, Work on Review Sat, Feb 28 – Quiz 7: 2.6,2.7 Due

Week 8: Mar 1 – 7	Section 3.1 Section 3.2	Sun, Mar 1 – Study! Mon, Mar 2 – **Test 2 Due – Covers Unit 2** (offered in person 9:00 – 11:00, Downtown Center-Room 011) Thurs, Mar 5 – Notes 8: 3.1,3.2 Due Fri, Mar 6 – Finish 3.1 & 3.2 Homework Sat, Mar 7 – Quiz 8: 3.1,3.2 Due
Week 9: Mar 8 – 14	Section 3.3 Section 3.4	Thurs, Mar 12 – Notes 9: 3.3,3.4 Due Fri, Mar 13 – Finish 3.3 & 3.4 Homework Sat, Mar 14 – Quiz 9: 3.3,3.4 Due
Week 10: Mar 15 – 21 *Spring Break*		
Week 11: Mar 22 – 28	Section 3.5 Section 4.1	Thurs, Mar 26 – Notes 10: 3.5 Due Fri, Mar 27 – Finish 3.5 Homework Sat, Mar 28 – Quiz 10: 3.5 Due
Week 12: Mar 29 – Apr 4 *Apr 3 Easter Break*	Section 4.2 Section 4.3	Tues, Mar 31 – Notes 11: 4.1 Due Wed, Apr 1 – Finish 4.1 Homework Thurs, Apr 2 – Quiz 11: 4.1 Due
Week 13: Apr 5 – 11 *Apr 10 Registration Opens*	Section 4.4 Review Unit 3 Review Unit 4	Thurs, Apr 9 – Notes 12: 4.2,4.3 Due Fri, Apr 10 – Finish 4.2 & 4.3 Homework Sat, Apr 11 – Quiz 12: 4.2,4.3 Due
Week 14: Apr 12 – 18	Section 5.1	Thurs, Apr 16 – Notes 13: 4.4 Due Fri, Apr 17 – Finish 4.4 Homework & Work on Reviews Sat, Apr 18 – Quiz 13: 4.4 Due
Week 15: Apr 19 – 25	Section 5.2	Sun, Mon, Tues – Work on Reviews & Study! Wed, Apr 22 – **Test 3 Due – Covers Units 3 & 4** (offered in person 9:00 – 11:00, Downtown Center-Room011) Thurs, Apr 23 – Notes 13: 5.1 Due Fri, Apr 24 – Finish 5.1 Homework Sat, Apr 25 – Quiz 13: 5.1 Due
Week 16: Apr 26 – May 2 *Apr 30 Last Day to Drop*	Section 5.3 Section 5.4 Review Unit 5 Review for Final	Tues, Apr 28 – Notes 14: 5.3, 5.4 Due Wed, Apr 29 – Finish 5.3 & 5.4 Homework, Work on Reviews Thurs, Apr 30 – Quiz 14: 5.3,5.4 Due Fri and Sat and Sun – Work on Reviews & Study!
Week 17: May 3 – 7		Mon, May 4 – **Final Exam Due** (offered in person 8:00 – 10:00, Downtown Center-Room 011)

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Section Titles

Unit 1: Solving Equations & Inequalities
1.1 Linear & Absolute Value Equations
1.2 Linear Inequalities
1.3 Complex Numbers & Simplifying Radical Expressions
1.4 Quadratic Equations: Factoring & Square Root Property
1.5 Quadratic Equations: Completing the Square & Quadratic Formula
1.6 Rational Equations & Radical Equations

Unit 2: Circles & Functions
2.1 Distance, Midpoint, & Circles
2.2 Basics of Functions & Analyzing Graphs
2.3 Evaluating Functions & Symmetry
2.4 Increasing, Decreasing, & Piecewise Functions
2.5 Graphs & Transformations
2.6 Functions: Operations & Composition
2.7 Functions: Composition & Inverses

Unit 3: Graphing Functions; Solving Polynomial Equations
3.1 Linear Functions: Slope, Graph, Parallel, & Perpendicular
3.2 Graph Quadratic Functions
3.3 Synthetic Division & Polynomial Equations
3.4 Graph Polynomial Functions
3.5 Graph Rational Functions

Unit 4: Inequalities; Exponential & Log Functions
4.1 Polynomial & Rational Inequalities
4.2 Exponential & Log Functions: Basics & Graphs
4.3 Properties of Logs
4.4 Exponential & Log Equations

Unit 5: Systems of Equations
5.1 Solve Systems in Two Variables & Three Variables
5.2 Nonlinear Systems
5.3 Solve Systems Using Matrices
5.4 Solve Systems Using Cramer's Rule

Test 1 will cover the following sections: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6.
Test 2 will cover the following sections: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7.
Test 3 will cover the following sections: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4.
The final exam will cover major topics from the three tests as well as 5.1, 5.3, and 5.4.