

**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>.

**Student ID Photo:** In order to comply with institutional identity-verification procedures, students enrolled in this course must have a current photo available in the College's student information system. Approved photos are used solely for instructional, advising, and security purposes and are protected under applicable privacy laws. Students without a photo on file must update their record during the first

week of class. Students are able to upload a photo through the [TouchNet 360U app instructions](#) using the SPC issued username and password.

**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.

**College Algebra**  
**Math 1314.607**

<b>Instructor</b>	Traci Sanders	<b>Time</b>	MW 9:00 – 10:45
<b>Email</b>	tsanders@southplainscollege.edu	<b>Classroom</b>	B011 Basement of Downtown Center
<b>Phone</b>	806-716-4616	<b>Office</b>	B021

**Office Hours:**

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

**Email Correspondence:** 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 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.

<https://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:** binder, notebook paper, pencils (please show your work in pencil), 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.

**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](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu).

**Attendance:** Course attendance will be taken. Per South Plains College math department policy, you may be administratively dropped from the course if your number of missed assignments or your number of missed classes goes over 20% of all assignments or classes. If you wish to drop this class, you should submit a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) online. If possible, talk to your instructor first.

Before arriving for each class meeting (except the first meeting and test days), make certain you have:

1. Printed the notes. See the course calendar for which section of notes you need for each class. (I will print Section 1.1 for you.)
2. Completed as much as possible of the homework assignment from the previous class. Be prepared to ask questions over homework problems in which you had trouble.

Upon arriving at the class meeting (non-test days), we will:

1. Answer questions over the homework.
2. Take notes on the section(s) listed on the course calendar. If we do not finish the notes in class, you will use the videos to finish the notes at home.
3. Work on the lab assignment.

**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, and bring the notes to class with you. (I will print Section 1.1 for you.) You will fill in the notes in class as I am lecturing. If you have to miss class, you may use the videos to fill in the notes. On homework, labs, and tests, your work needs to follow the work as I have taught it. If your work comes from a math app rather than the notes I have given, you will not receive credit. Keep your notes organized, and always bring them to class. When you work on a lab in the classroom, you may use your notes as reference.

**Homework:** Homework assignments for each section are posted in Blackboard. Homework is located in the same folder as the videos and notes. Homework should be completed neatly on notebook paper with work shown. The answers are given. Carefully check all of your answers immediately after completing the problems. Figure out what you did wrong if you missed a problem. This is one of the best ways to learn math! If you can't figure it out, circle the problem, and ask about it during class. The homework will help you prepare for labs and tests! Homework will be turned in on test days. You may earn one bonus point per homework assignment to be added to your test grade. To get the bonus point for the assignment, it cannot be missing more than two problems, and the work must be shown as taught in the videos and in class.

**Labs:** Approximately the last 30 minutes of class will be our lab time. The lowest three lab grades will be dropped. If you miss a lab, that lab grade will be a 0. **There will not be any make-up or late labs.** Here are the two different types of labs we will have:

1. Work on homework. As long as you participate, you will receive a 100 for these labs.
2. Work on an in-class assignment that will be turned in and graded. You will be able to use your notes and homework as reference.

**Tests:** There will be 4 tests and a comprehensive final exam. If for any reason you are going to miss a test, you must contact me PRIOR to the date of the test and arrange to take the test early. Dates for all tests are given in the course calendar, so PLAN AHEAD! 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.

**Showing Work:** To receive full credit on labs and tests, you must show all work that leads to your answers. The work must be legible, make sense and be easy to follow.

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

Lab Average.....	12%
Test Average.....	68%
Final Exam (covering Unit 5 & major topics from previous tests).....	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.

**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 weekday, even if it's just a little.
- Remind yourself often of the math you have learned by looking back over your notes.
- Come to class on time and prepared to learn.
- Ask for help when needed.
- Print the notes. Engage your brain and take good notes during lecture.
- Thoroughly complete notes, homework, labs, and tests.
- Practice the problems repeatedly until you have full mastery of them.

## College Algebra Course Calendar:

This is a tentative schedule. Any changes will be announced in class and posted in Blackboard. Assignments that will be graded are highlighted in yellow.

Grading Policy: Lab Avg=12%, Test Average=68%, Final Exam=20%

The lowest three lab grades will be dropped. There are no make-up or late labs or tests.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Jan 12  Section 1.1 Assessment	Jan 13	Jan 14  Sections 1.1 & 1.2 <b>Lab 1 &amp; Student ID Photo</b>	Jan 15	Jan 16  Factoring Review
2	Jan 19  <b>Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday</b>	Jan 20	Jan 21  Section 1.3 <b>Lab 2</b>	Jan 22	Jan 23  Factoring Review
3	Jan 26  Section 1.4 <b>Lab 3</b>	Jan 27	Jan 28  Section 1.5 <b>Lab 4</b>	Jan 29	Jan 30
4	Feb 2  Section 1.6 <b>Lab 5</b>	Feb 3	Feb 4  Section 2.2 & Review <b>Lab 6</b>	Feb 5	Feb 6
5	Feb 9  <b>Test 1</b> (1.1,1.2,1.3 1.4,1.5,1.6)	Feb 10	Feb 11  Sections 2.3 & 2.5 <b>Lab 7</b>	Feb 12	Feb 13
6	Feb 16  Sections 2.5 & 2.6 <b>Lab 8</b>	Feb 17	Feb 18  Sections 2.7 & 3.1 <b>Lab 9</b>	Feb 19	Feb 20
7	Feb 23  Section 3.1 <b>Lab 10</b>	Feb 24	Feb 25  Section 3.2 & Review <b>Lab 11</b>	Feb 26	Feb 27

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8	Mar 2  <b>Test 2</b> (2.2,2.3,2.5, 2.6,2.7,3.1)	Mar 3	Mar 4  Section 3.3 <b>Lab 12</b>	Mar 5	Mar 6
9	Mar 9  Section 3.4 <b>Lab 13</b>	Mar 10	Mar 11  Section 3.5 <b>Lab 14</b>	Mar 12	Mar 13
10	Mar 16  <b>Spring Break</b>	Mar 17  <b>Spring Break</b>	Mar 18  <b>Spring Break</b>	Mar 19  <b>Spring Break</b>	Mar 20  <b>Spring Break</b>
11	Mar 23  Section 4.1 <b>Lab 15</b>	Mar 24	Mar 25  Section 4.2 & Review <b>Lab 16</b>	Mar 26	Mar 27
12	Mar 30  <b>Test 3</b> (3.2,3.3,3.4, 3.5,4.1)	Mar 31	Apr 1  Section 4.3 <b>Lab 17</b>	Apr 2	Apr 3  <b>Easter Break</b>
13	Apr 6  Section 4.4 <b>Lab 18</b>	Apr 7	Apr 8  Section 4.4 <b>Lab 19</b>	Apr 9	Apr 10  Registration Opens
14	Apr 13  Section 5.1 <b>Lab 20</b>	Apr 14	Apr 15  Section 5.1 <b>Lab 21</b>	Apr 16	Apr 17
15	Apr 20  Section 5.3 & Review <b>Lab 22</b>	Apr 21	Apr 22  <b>Test 4</b> (4.2,4.3,4.4,5.1)	Apr 23	Apr 24
16	Apr 27  Section 5.4 <b>Lab 23</b>	Apr 28	Apr 29  Review Last Day to Drop	Apr 30	May 1
17	May 4  <b>Final Exam</b> 8:00 – 10:00	May 5	May 6	May 7	

## 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 Order of Operations; Evaluating Functions & Piecewise Functions
- 2.4 Increasing, Decreasing, & Constant; Relative Max & Min
- 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