

**South Plains College**  
**Common Course Syllabus: MATH 1324 Business Algebra**  
**Spring 2026**

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

**Discipline:** Mathematics

**Course Number:** MATH 1324    **Section:** 003    **1324 Course Title:** Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences

**Available Formats:** conventional, hybrid, and internet. This section primarily meets face-to-face, but also utilizes the internet.

**Campuses:** Levelland, Downtown Center, and Dual Credit. This section meets face-to-face on the Levelland campus each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-2:45pm in room 124 of the Mathematics building.

**Course Description:** The application of common algebraic functions, including polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and rational, to problems in business, economics, and the social sciences are addressed. The applications include mathematics of finance, including simple and compound interest and annuities; systems of linear equations; matrices; linear programming; and probability, including expected value.

**Prerequisite:** Minimum score of 350 on the TSIA, TSI-exempt status, or a successful completion with a grade of 'C' or better in MATH 0320.

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

**Instructor:** Jennifer Bartlett

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**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](http://www.southplainscollege.edu). To access the SPC student e-mail account, log in to [portal.office.com](http://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.

**Blackboard Messages:** I do not use or check messages in Blackboard, so please email me any questions.

**Office Hours:**

- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 8:30-9:30am, 10:45am-12:45pm
- Fridays: 8:30-10:30am
- And by appointment, as needed. (The appointments can be scheduled in Blackboard.)

**Textbook:** A textbook is not required for this course; however, a recommended textbook for this course may be: *Mathematics with Applications in Business and Social Sciences*, 2022, Hawkes Learning

**Supplies:**

- Calculator: You may use a graphing calculator on most homework, quizzes, and exams. TI-83, TI-83+, TI-84+ are preferred, but many others are also acceptable. Cell phones and similar devices may NOT be used as calculators and no sharing of calculators is allowed. If you have any questions about your calculator check with the instructor immediately.
- Paper, maybe a small amount of graph paper, pencils, and erasers
- Access to a reliable internet service, a way to print and scan documents, a device with the capability to participate in Zoom/Collaborate meetings with video and audio
- You may want 3-ring binder (about 2 inch) and dividers to keep track of all the course materials

**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 Campus Connect Pin No. (found on SPC acceptance letter)

Questions regarding Blackboard support may be emailed to [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto: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. Apply elementary functions, including linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, logarithmic, and exponential functions to solving real-world problems.
2. Solve mathematics of finance problems, including the computation of interest, annuities, and amortization of loans.
3. Apply basic matrix operations, including linear programming methods, to solve application problems.
4. Demonstrate fundamental probability techniques and application of those techniques, including expected value, to solve problems.
5. Apply matrix skills and probability analyses to model applications to solve real-world problems.

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

- Daily Work (Assignments, Quizzes, Labs, etc.) = 16%
- Unit Exams (4 total) = 64% (16% for each exam)
- Final Exam = 20%

**Assignment Format and Policy:** Assignments are given after each lesson and are collected according to the tentative course schedule below. Expect a quiz to accompany each assignment. For each question on each assignment:

- Write the question number.
- In solving the problem, show all necessary 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 work with your notes for the section in Gradescope as a single pdf file, preferably using the Gradescope app. (Pdf files can also be generated easily using a scanner or many freely available phone apps, like CamScanner, Scannable, or OneDrive.)

Make certain to complete and submit assignments on time (or early). Early submissions are welcomed!

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will be accepted on Gradescope for a 20% reduction in the grade, up until the unit exam. Assignments not submitted before the Unit exam will be counted as a grade of a 0.

**Quiz Format and Policy:** Expect a face-to-face quiz to be administered at most every class session. No late quizzes will be accepted, as quizzes are to be taken during the class time.

**Exam Format and Policy:** There will be four-unit exams in this course. Exams must be taken at the days and times listed on the tentative course schedule. All exams must be taken in pencil. Students may not leave the examination room for any reason without turning in their exam for grading.

**Make-up Quizzes/Exams:** No make-up quizzes and exams are given without prior notification AND proper documentation of the absence. The quiz/exam must be taken before the student returns to class, and the make-up time will be at the

discretion of the instructor. Students who do not take exams at the normal time, early or late, forfeit the right to attempt any extra credit on that quiz or exam.

**Final Exam:** The comprehensive final will be given on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00pm. No make-up final will be given.

**To maximize your potential for successfully completing this course:**

- login to Blackboard daily
- thoroughly complete and submit the assignments on time (or early)
- practice the exercises repeatedly until you have full mastery of them
- rewatch the course lecture videos to hear the instruction again
- ask questions when you have 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 cannot receive an X, the instructor will assign an F.

**SPC Tutors (before 8pm)**

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 (after 8pm and weekends)**

You also have 180 free minutes online tutoring with Brainfuse each week. Log into Blackboard, click on the "Assist" or "Tools" option from the left-hand menu bar. Click on the Brainfuse Live Tutoring link and you will automatically be logged in for free tutoring. You may access Brainfuse tutors during the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 8pm-8am

6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

For questions regarding tutoring, please email [tutoring@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:tutoring@southplainscollege.edu) or call 806-716-2538.

**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.

**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.

**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).

**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 price 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.*

**Math 1324.003 Tentative Calendar Spring 2026 Tuesday & Thursdays 1:00-2:45 Math 124**

Date	Topics	<b>Assignments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignments are due by <u>noon</u> on the following Mondays</li> <li>Quizzes are due by the end of the class meeting</li> </ul>
<b>Week 1:</b> Jan 12-16	Course Introduction 1.1: Slope, Intercepts, & Linear Equations 1.2: Linear Business Applications	1.1, 1.2
<b>Week 2:</b> Jan 20-23 (Mon, Jan 19 <sup>th</sup> is a holiday)	1.3: Supply & Demand, Interval Notation, & Linear Inequalities 1.4: Functions & Their Graphs	1.3, 1.4
<b>Week 3:</b> Jan 26-30	1.5: Quadratic Functions 1.6: Polynomial Functions	1.5, 1.6
<b>Week 4:</b> Feb 2-6	1.7: Rational Functions Review for Unit 1 Exam	1.7
<b>Week 5:</b> Feb 9-13	<b>Unit 1 Exam</b> (Tues, Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> ) 2.1: Exponential & Logarithmic Functions	2.1
<b>Week 6:</b> Feb 16-20	2.2: Log Properties & Solving Logarithmic Equations 2.3: Solving Exponential Equations	2.2, 2.3
<b>Week 7:</b> Feb 23-27	2.4: Simple & Compound Interest 2.5: Future Value	2.4, 2.5
<b>Week 8:</b> March 2-6	2.6: Present Value Review for Unit 2 Exam	2.6
<b>Week 9:</b> March 9-13	<b>Unit 2 Exam</b> (Tues., March 10 <sup>th</sup> ) 3.1: Systems of Linear Equations (GJE)	3.1
<i>March 16-20</i>	<i>Spring Break; No School</i>	
<b>Week 10:</b> March 23-27	3.2: System Applications 3.3: Matrix Operations	3.2, 3.3
<b>Week 11:</b> March 30 – April 2 (Fri, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> is a holiday)	3.4: Leontief Input-Output Models Review for Unit 3 Exam <b>Unit 3 Exam</b> (Thurs., April 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	3.4 (due Thurs., April 2 <sup>nd</sup> before 1:00pm)
<b>Week 12:</b> April 6-10	4.1: Linear Programming: A Graphical Approach 4.2: Linear Programming: The Simplex Method	4.1, 4.2
<b>Week 13:</b> April 13-17	4.3: Simplex Method Applications 4.4: Nonstandard Simplex Problems	4.3, 4.4
<b>Week 14:</b> April 20-24	Review for Unit 4 Exam <b>Unit 4 Exam</b> (Thurs., April 23 <sup>rd</sup> )	
<b>Week 15:</b> April 27 – May 1	5.1: Intro to Probability & Expected Value Review for Final Exam Last Day to Drop a Course (Thurs., April 30 <sup>th</sup> )	5.1
<b>Week 16:</b> May 4-8 (Commencement is on Fri, May 8 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>Final Exam</b> (Tues, May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1:00-3:00pm)	