MATH 1324 - Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences
Spring 2026

Instructor: Jason Groves **Office:** B001 or B017 (LDTC)
e-mail: jgroves@southplainscollege.edu
Phone: 806-716-2739
Office Hours: M- F: 8:30 am - 11 am
or by appointment

Note that students are responsible for knowing the policies of SPC as an institution. This information is available in the student handbook. Policies specific to the math department are found in the common course policies preceding this document. Below are the course policies specific to this course section and this instructor.

Materials: The following materials are required for this course

Writing: Pencil and paper are required for taking notes during videos, while reading the text, or during any virtual/remote meetings, as well as for completing written assignments. Generally, I recommend having a spiral notebook dedicated to notes and solving problems for this class, which makes it easy to email pictures of problems and ask questions about the work.

Calculators: You will need a calculator with e^x and ln keys. These can be found on scientific calculators (inexpensively obtained from Wal-Mart or any other big-box store) or graphing calculators. (NOTE: graphing calculators are nice, but not required for this course.) Online options exist such as Wolfram Alpha (`wolframalpha.com`), Desmos (`www.desmos.com` Desmos also has smartphone apps) or GeoGebra (`www.geogebra.org`). Smartphone apps such as Panecal or ClassCalc are also available for low cost (or free). All are great for doing homework or studying.
Please note that computer software and mobile apps will not be allowed on exams.

Computer: Access to a computer with stable internet connection will be required for viewing course materials as well as using other software (see "Calculators" above and "Blackboard" below). In many cases, a tablet or other mobile device will provide adequate access to all of the content provided in the course. For online testing, a computer is a requirement. See "Exams" below.

Blackboard: Blackboard (accessible via the SPC website) will be used as a central hub for the course. You can find this syllabus, and all other course materials, as well as assignments, grading rubrics, etc. You should be checking Blackboard daily for announcements and updates, and to access the homework. Blackboard utilizes students' SPC email, thus you should also be checking your SPC email regularly.

Gradescope: You will need to submit written documents in this course, via the Gradescope app. You will need access to a smartphone for this app. If you do not have a smartphone, you will need access to a scanner to scan your documents and upload them to Gradescope from your computer. ***NOTE:*** *When accessing Gradescope, do not create an account to log in. Instead, select the option to use school credentials and then select SPC. You will be able to use your SPC login information to use Gradescope.*

Assessment: Grading will be done according to the standard 10 percent scale (i.e. 100% - 90% is an A, etc.) with assignments weighted as follows:

Assignments	16%
Tests	64%
Final Exam	20%

Grades are calculated by taking the average of all of the grades in that assessment type, and then weighing them according to the proportions given above. Details of each assessment type are given below.

Class Attendance: This course is an asynchronous (not at the same time) online course, so there is no formal class to attend. Attendance is instead managed by participation in the course. Students should be involved with working the course material as often as possible in order to develop mastery of the topics presented. As a benchmark, students should expect to spend at least 15 hours per week on this course to complete it successfully. Most students usually break this down into 3 hours per day, 5-6 days per week working on this course (note that the 3 hours do not have to be continuous, but that amount of time should be accumulated each day for best results.) If a you miss more than 5 assessment items (assignments, case studies, exams), you may be dropped from the course with an X or an F.

If a you wish to drop the course on your own (which gives a mark of W) there are instructions in the Syllabus section of the Blackboard course.

It is currently the policy of the South Plains College math department that online math courses cannot be repeated, regardless of success in or completion of the course. Therefore if a student fails, drops, or is administratively dropped, they will not be able to repeat the course online, and must repeat the course in an offline setting.

Students should plan their work time at the beginning of each week so that they are committed in advance to the completion of their assignments. It has been well documented that spreading out study and practice over a longer period of time helps to retain knowledge, create new connections, and gain additional insights into the material. This can also help with quizzes (see below).**Make arrangements now and plan ahead for what you will do in the event that your own computer or internet connection becomes unavailable or unreliable.**

Assignments: Daily work is essential to developing mastery over the topics presented in this course. All lessons and assignments are available from the first day of classes. Problems may be attempted an unlimited number of times in order to achieve mastery over each lesson. It is important for you to be as thorough as possible in completing the assignments as well as taking notes over the lessons. At the end of each week, you will submit your notes and your worked problems over the week's lessons on Gradescope. Details are in the assignments policy document in Course Resources. Late work is not accepted, but you should make it a habit to review previous material often.

Exams: There are four midterm exams and one final exam. Testing is provided both in person (all dates are on the course calendar) or online via Honorlock. *Students always have the option of taking exams in person at the Lubbock Downtown Center.* Students intending to take exams online with Honorlock must complete a practice exam (found in the "First Tasks!" folder on blackboard). All exams taken online must adhere to the guidelines as fulfilled in the practice exam. If a student fails to follow the guidelines points will be deducted from the exam up to and including the student receiving a score of zero. Repeated score reductions will result in the student being required to take exams in person for the remainder of the term. Students may also be required to take exams in person if the professor believes that the academic integrity of the student or the integrity of the exam is being violated.

Honorlock; Students taking exams online will be using the honorlock system. By using Honorlock, the student is consenting to being recorded for the duration of each exam. Use of Honorlock has the following material requirements:

- use of a computer as opposed to tablet or other mobile device.
- a webcam and microphone (most devices have these preinstalled).
- Google Chrome web browser (other browsers will **not** work effectively with the Honorlock extension.)

Dual Credit Students will test in their classrooms with their faculty or staff facilitator. This information should be provided to me via the introductory survey.

Exams cannot be retaken, rescheduled, or "made up." Students having problems with the exam schedule or the technical requirements of online testing must speak with the professor *before* the exam opening date to resolve the issue.

Final Exam: The final exam is comprehensive, and a required part of the course. Failure to take the final exam results in an automatic F in the course. You will need to take this exam in person. The Final Exam must be taken by Tuesday, May 5

Email: The email at the header of the syllabus is the best way to get into contact with the me. This should be used as often as necessary to ask questions, schedule appointments for office hours (physical or virtual) or turn in written assignments in the event that blackboard is down. You may also email incomplete parts of projects and case studies in order to get feedback from me on how to proceed.

All emails should be formatted with the course number and section, and an adequate heading (i.e. "Math 1324-151 project questions"). Failure to format the subject line properly may result in emails being caught by SPC's email filter. Neither I nor SPC are responsible for emails lost due to improper formatting.

Be sure to confirm that all relevant attachments are sent with the email and that the body of the email contains all relevant information for that correspondence.

Showing Work: In all written assignments submitted work of one kind or another needs to be shown in order for the me to properly assess how much of the content has been properly learned and implemented. *When submitting written work any question or component that does not have work associated with it will be given reduced (or no) credit.* Students may view the document titled "Mathematical Writing" in the syllabus content area for specific examples of properly showing work.

Civility in the classroom: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Given that this is an online course, "the classroom" is defined as any set of interactions that students will have with one another (primarily discussion boards). Students who are found to be intentionally hurtful or disrespectful, or repeatedly detract from the focus of the discussion boards will have their grade in this category penalized (up to zero credit for a discussion assignment), and may be administratively dropped from the course (with an X or F) for creating a hostile learning environment.

It is important to note the role that students play in their own mathematical education. Just as everybody has had (and continues to have) different life experiences, we all have different mathematical experiences as well. And while it is important that the systems and institutions that people interact with (of which this class is one) are impartial, to expect such from human beings borders on impossible. To that end, it is imperative that students give space for their classmates to come into the material from where they are, and that we seek to understand each other. The most important capacity students can give each other is the space to be wrong, and to be gently guided out of misconceptions or errors. Both instructor and student are not just the product of their own hard work and thinking, but also of what their environments (both past and present) allowed them to work or think hard about.

Students in disagreements over results or processes must disagree professionally. Blanket statements ("you're wrong" or "that doesn't work") cannot be given without explicit evidence, and should still be framed more in terms of your own understanding: phrases like "I think the problem is asking for..." or "did you consider..." are more appropriate to use when correcting and/or helping other students. People cannot escape their biases, but everybody can recognize that people do not always look at a problem the same way. Make every attempt to be charitable and generous in your interactions with other students.

Honesty: "Scholastic dishonesty" includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. This includes the submitting Generative AI/Large Language Models (i.e. ChatGPT) results as your own. Incidents of academic dishonesty will be promptly reported and dealt with.

Student Resources: Students have access to tutoring at all SPC campuses, specifically in room M116 in the Math and Engineering building on the Levelland campus, or Floor 1 of the Lubbock Downtown Center in the southeast corner.

To schedule a face-to-face or virtual meeting with SPC tutors, go to the SPC webpage, click Student Services, and click on Tutoring. There students may choose at which center they wish to have tutoring or if they wish to have a virtual session (face-to-face sessions only require an open spot, while virtual sessions require 4 hours notice). Click the Booking link and log in with SPC credentials. Students can then choose the subject and tutor.

Students also have access to the use of BrainFuse (found in Course Resources on Blackboard) for a few hours each week.

Week	Sections Covered
Week 1 1/12 - 1/16	Syllabus, Calendar, Course Resources Lesson 1: Probability, Expected Values
Week 2 1/19 - 1/23	Lesson 2: Graphs and Equations of Lines Lesson 3: Applications of Linear Functions
Week 3 1/26 - 1/30	Lesson 4: Systems of Linear Equations Lesson 5: Matrices; Gauss-Jordan Elimination
Week 4 2/2 - 2/6	Lesson 6: Matrix Operations Lesson 7: Markov Chains Exam 1
Week 5 2/9 - 2/13	Lesson 8: Matrix Algebra Lesson 9: Input/Output Analysis
Week 6 2/16 - 2/20	Lesson 10: Linear Programming (Graphing) Lesson 11: Linear Programming (Simplex-Standard)
Week 7 2/23 - 2/27	Lesson 12: Linear Programming (Two-Phase - non-standard) Exam 2
Week 8 3/2 - 3/6	Lesson 13: Functions Lesson 14: Quadratic Functions and Applications
Week 9 3/9 - 3/13	Lesson 15: Polynomial Functions and Applications *SPRING BREAK 3/16 - 3/20*
Week 10 3/23 - 2/27	Lesson 16: Rational Functions and Applications
Week 11 3/30 - 4/3	Lesson 17: Exponential Functions and Applications Lesson 18: Logarithmic Functions and Applications
Week 12 4/6 - 4/10	Lesson 19: Solving Exponential and Logarithmic Equations Exam 3
Week 13 4/13 - 4/17	Lesson 20: Simple Interest Lesson 21: Compound Interest
Week 14 4/20 - 4/24	Lesson 22: Future Value Annuities Lesson 23: Present Value Annuities Exam 4
Week 15 4/27 - 5/1	Review for Final Exam
Week 16 5/4 - 5/7	Final Exam

Due Dates (Assignments by 11 pm on the Friday of that week)
Introductory Survey (1st submission due Wednesday, 1/15) Honorlock Practice Exam Assignment 1
Assignments 2 and 3 Case Study: Life Expectancy
Assignments 4 and 5 Case Study: Flow Problems
Assignments 6 and 7, Case Study: Airline Routes Exam 1 Honorlock - Open 2/6 8 am - 2/8 10 pm Exam 1 in person - 2/5 6 pm or 2/6 9 am (room B011)
Assignments 8 and 9
Assignments 10 and 11
Assignment 12, Case Study: Diet Problem Exam 2 Honorlock - Open 2/27 8 am - 3/1 10 pm Exam 2 in person - 2/26 6 pm or 2/27 9 am (room B011)
Assignments 13 and 14 Case Study: Maximizing Functions
Assignment 15
Assignment 16
Assignments 17 and 18
Assignment 19 Exam 3 Honorlock - Open 4/10 8 am - 4/12 10 pm Exam 3 in person - 4/9 6 pm or 4/10 9 am (room B011)
Assignments 20 and 21 Case Study: Rule of 72
Assignments 22 and 23 Exam 4 Honorlock - Open 4/24 8 am through 4/26 10 pm Exam 4 in person - 4/23 6 pm or 4/24 9 am (B011)
Final Exam Honorlock - Open 5/4 8 am through 5/5 10 pm Final Exam In Person - Select from schedule