

Math 0305 – Foundations of Algebra – Spring 2026

Jacqueline Fowler

I. Common Course Syllabus – Math Department Policies

Department: Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science

Course Title: Foundations of Algebra

Discipline: Mathematics

Course Number: MATH 1314

Available Formats: conventional and internet

Campuses: Levelland, Plainview Center, Lubbock Downtown Center

Course Description: This course is a study of fundamental mathematics principles and concepts to help prepare students for math corequisites. Topics include performing basic arithmetic operations on integers, fractions, and decimals; performing calculations involving exponents and order of operations; solving application problems involving proportions, percent, and fractions; simplifying algebraic expressions and solving linear equations; application problems involving linear models; graphs of linear equations in two variables; applying rules of exponents; and operations on polynomials. The course includes a non-course competency-based lab option that will require students to work with academic coaches, peer tutors, or online supplemental tools outside of the prescribed class meeting time to help develop skills, strategies, and reasoning needed to succeed in mathematics, including communication and appropriate use of technology. This course will not satisfy graduation requirements.

Prerequisite: This course is designed for students who test between 910-949 with a diagnostic level of 1-3 or TSIA: ABE Math Level 3-4.

Credit: 3 Lecture: 2 Lab: 2

Textbook: No textbook required, course materials will be provided on Blackboard

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: No

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course and receiving a passing grade, the student will be able to:

1. Add, subtract, multiply and divide real numbers.
2. Use the order of operations to simplify an expression.
3. Simplify algebraic expressions.
4. Solve linear equations.
5. Translate and solve word problems.
6. Solve linear inequalities.
7. Graph equations in two variables by the intercept method and the slope intercept method.
8. Evaluate expressions using exponent rules.
9. Add, subtract, multiply and divide polynomials.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: Comprehensive Final Exam

Course Evaluation: There will be a comprehensive departmental final exam given by all instructors.

Attendance/Student Engagement Policy: Attendance and effort are the most important activities for success in this course. The instructor maintains records of the student's engagement throughout the semester. The student will be allowed to miss twenty percent (20%) of class assignments for the semester, **for any reason**. Should this number be exceeded, the instructor has the right to drop the student with a grade of F or an X, depending on the instructor's discretion.

Withdrawal Policy: As required by Texas Education Code Section 51.907, all new students who enroll in a Texas public institution of higher education for the first time beginning with the 2007 fall semester and thereafter, are limited to six course drops throughout their entire undergraduate career. All course drops, including those initiated by students or faculty and any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution, automatically count toward the limit. After six grades of W are received, students must receive grades of A, B, C, D, or F in all courses. There are other exemptions from the six-drop limit and students should consult with a Counselor/Educational Planner before they drop courses to determine these exemptions. Students receiving financial aid must get in touch with the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing from a course. It is the student's responsibility to drop. Excessive absences will result in an administrative withdrawal with a Grade of X or F. If you plan to withdraw, please consult with the instructor immediately.

II. South Plains College Policies

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.

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.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please see the list of things that constitute plagiarism and cheating. 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.

South Plains College policies concerning diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry Statements can be found here:

<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>.

*****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.**

III. Section 606 Policies

Instructor Information: Jacqueline Fowler
806-716-4640 B022 (LBK Downtown Center - Basement)
jfowler@southplainscollege.edu

Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays: Fridays:
8:00 – 9:00, 10:45 – 11:00, 12:15 – 1:00, 2:45 – 4:00 8:00 – 9:30

Required Materials:

- Printed notes from Bb
- 3-ring binder
- Pencils and eraser

***Calculators are not allowed at any time**

Blackboard: Blackboard (Bb) is an online course management system that SPC uses for course information. For technical support, call 806-716-2180 or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu.

Communication: All emails need to be sent through Blackboard. I will try to respond to all emails within 24 hours, but sometimes it may take longer. Emails sent to me after 9:30 am on Friday may not receive a response until Monday morning. Be professional in your messages. (Do **not** use all caps or text language.)

Final Grade Determination:

A: 900 – 1000 B: 800 – 899 C: 700 – 799 D: 600 – 699 F: 0 – 599

Grading Formula: Completing all submissions and having a strong work ethic are important but do not guarantee a passing grade. However, these two things do increase the likelihood of passing. The final responsibility for learning lies with the student. The final letter grade for this course will be based on the following:

- Required Tutor Lab Attendance.....100 points
- Quizzes.....200 points
- Exam 1.....200 points
- Exam 2.....200 points
- Comprehensive Final Exam.....300 points
- Total.....1,000 points

Showing Work: To receive full credit on quizzes and exams, you must show all work that leads to your answers. The work must be legible, make sense and be easy to follow. All work and answers should be handwritten. No calculators or cell phones are to be used to get answers on any coursework.

Homework: Homework is for practice only and will not count for a grade. Homework will prepare you for quizzes and exams, so it is very beneficial to complete all questions.

Required Tutoring Lab Attendance:

- You must attend the tutoring lab provided by South Plains College to get assistance and practice for 60 minutes (1 hour) weekly.
- When you arrive at the Tutoring Lab, check in on the Penji app to get credit for your attendance.
- Your points will be computed by finding the ratio of the minutes you attended the tutoring lab over the required 60 minutes ($\frac{\text{attended minutes}}{60} \times 10$).

Quizzes:

- Quizzes over math concepts will be given during class. If you are absent, you will receive a zero. Each math quiz will be worth 15 points.
- Quizzes over math study skills are located in Blackboard. If you miss completing a quiz in Bb before the deadline, you will receive a zero. Each MSS quiz will be worth 5 points.

Exams: Three exams will be given during class with the last exam being a comprehensive final exam.

- One missed exam, for any reason, will have the comprehensive final exam replace the zero earned. The second missed exam will be a zero.
- If the Final Exam is not attempted, a grade of F will be reported for the student's grade regardless of the grade before the Final Exam was administered.

Resources:

- Blackboard! The course syllabus, calendar, gradebook, notes handouts, and assignments will be available on Blackboard.
- Me! Feel free to email me at jfowler@southplainscollege.edu. If you email about a specific math question, please attach a picture of the question and the work that you have tried.
- Peer tutoring is available via SPC and is required for this course. The link is in Blackboard.
- Free tutorial videos are available at the following sites: <https://www.mathtv.com/> and <https://www.khanacademy.org/>.

Succeeding in a Math Class:

- Be mentally present! Pay attention and ask questions in class.
- Plan ahead. Do notes and practice problems early enough before the due date that you will have time to ask questions or seek help if you need it.
- Get help as soon as you feel yourself falling behind! Don't wait!
- All notes and practice problems for the course are posted on Blackboard. If you want to get ahead, that is encouraged. Time management is crucial.
- The best way to study for a math exam is to practice working problems over and over.
- Everyone learns and studies differently. I encourage you to seek out and find what works best for you.

Tentative Course Outline

| Week | Date | Tuesday | Date | Thursday |
|----------------------------|--------|--|----------------------|---|
| 1 | Jan 13 | Syllabus Notes 1 - Add and Sub Whole Numbers | Jan 15 | Notes 2 - Mult and Div Whole Numbers |
| 2 | Jan 20 | Quiz 2 - Notes 1 and 2 Notes 3 - Add and Sub Integers | Jan 22 | Notes 4 - Mult and Div Integers |
| 3 | Jan 27 | Quiz 3 - Notes 3 and 4 Notes 5 - Exponents and Square Roots | Jan 29 | Notes 6 - GCF and LCM |
| 4 | Feb 3 | Quiz 4 - Notes 5 and 6 Notes 7 - Mult and Div Fractions | Feb 5 | Notes 8 - Add and Sub Fractions |
| 5 | Feb 10 | Quiz 5 - Notes 7 and 8 Review for Exam 1 | Feb 12 | Exam 1 - Notes 1 through 8 |
| 6 | Feb 17 | Notes 9 - Add and Sub Decimals | Feb 19 | Notes 10 - Mult and Div Decimals |
| 7 | Feb 24 | Quiz 6 - Notes 9 and 10 Notes 11 - Percents and Converting | Feb 26 | Notes 12 - Order of Operations |
| 8 | Mar 3 | Quiz 7 - Notes 11 and 12 Notes 13 - Algebraic Expressions | Mar 5 | Notes 14 - Linear Equations - no fractions |
| 9 | Mar 10 | Quiz 8 - Notes 13 and 14 Notes 15 - Linear Equations with Fractions | Mar 12 | Notes 16 - Applications and Percent Equations |
| Spring Break March 16 - 20 | | | | |
| 10 | Mar 24 | Quiz 9 - Notes 15 and 16 Review for Exam 2 | Mar 26 | Exam 2 - Notes 1 through 16 |
| 11 | Mar 31 | Notes 17 - Linear Inequalities | Apr 2 | Notes 18 - Rules of Exponents - Part 1 |
| 12 | Apr 7 | Quiz 10 - Notes 17 and 18 Notes 19 - Rules of Exponents - part 2 | Apr 9 | Notes 20 - Rules of Exponents - practice |
| 13 | Apr 14 | Quiz 11 - Notes 19 and 20 Notes 21 - Polynomials | Apr 16 | Notes 22 - Coordinate Basics |
| 14 | Apr 21 | Quiz 12 - Notes 21 and 22 Notes 23 - Lines and Slope | Apr 23 | Notes 24 - Graphing Linear Equations |
| 15 | Apr 28 | Quiz 13 - Notes 23 and 24 Review for Final Exam | Apr 30 | Review for Final Exam Last Day to Drop Classes |
| 16 | May 5 | Final Exam - Notes 1 through 24 | 10:15 - 12:15 | |