Common Course Syllabus: College Algebra (MATH 1314)
Fall 2025

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

Course Number: MATH 1314 **Section:** 441 **Course Title:** College Algebra

Available Formats: conventional, hybrid, internet, and ITV. The format of this section of College Algebra will be ITV (Interactive Two-Way Video).

Campuses: Levelland, Downtown Center, Plainview Center, and Dual Credit. This dual credit section of College Algebra will meet each week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00-9:50am through the ITV system.

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

Instructor: Jerod Clopton
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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. To access the SPC student e-mail account, log in to 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.

- My expected response time to received emails is as follows:
  - For emails sent on Monday-Thursday, I will attempt to respond within 24 hours.
  - For emails sent on Friday-Sunday, I may not respond until the following Monday.

Virtual/Face-to-Face Office Hours*:

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:15-9:15am, 12:30-1:30pm
- Fridays: by appointment only
- Students are welcome to come by my office anytime during my scheduled office hours.
- Face-to-face and virtual appointments may be scheduled by contacting me by email or in person, or by scheduling through Blackboard.

Textbook: A textbook is not required for this course; however, a recommended and freely available textbook for this course may be: College Algebra from OpenStax, Print ISBN 1938168380, Digital ISBN 1947172123, www.openstax.org/details/college-algebra

This textbook is also embedded in your Blackboard course for easier referencing. However, if you prefer a print copy as a reference tool, the ISBN is located at the web link above.

Supplies:

- Calculator: You may use a scientific calculator on most homework, quizzes, and exams. The TI-30XII scientific calculator is my (the instructor's) preferred type, but many others are also acceptable. Graphing calculators, calculators on cell phones, TI-89, TI-92, or TI-Inspire calculators, or any other electronic devices will not be allowed during testing without permission from the instructor. 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/Proctorio meetings with video and audio.
- Access to a printer to print documents. Make certain you have access to a scanner or scanning app.
    - It is recommended that you download the Gradescope Mobile App to scan and upload your coursework.
- You may want a 3-ring binder (about 2 inches) 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 username and password should be the same as the MySPC and SPC email.

Username: first initial, last name, and last 4 digits of the Student ID
Password: Original Campus Connect Pin No. (found on SPC acceptance letter)

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. Assignments, quizzes, and exam corrections will count for 20% of the final grade, while exams count for 80% of the final grade.

Expect 23 assignments, approximately 17 quizzes, and 4 scheduled exams throughout the course. Your final average in the course will determine the letter grade posted on your transcript. This grade is determined by the following scale: A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-59%).

- Assignments = 10%
- Quizzes = 10%
- Unit Exams (3 total) = 60% (20% each)
- Exam 4 = 20%

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

- Work on your own paper, not on the provided assignment papers.
- Write the question number.
- In solving the problem, show all required 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 in Gradescope as a single PDF file, preferably using the Gradescope app. (PDF files can be generated easily using a scanner or many freely available phone apps, like CamScanner, Scannable, or OneDrive.)
- All homework assignments will be due by 11:59 pm on the Saturday of the corresponding week that the assignment is given (unless otherwise stated).

Make certain to complete and submit assignments on time (or early). Early submissions are welcomed! Late assignments will be accepted with a 15% deduction up to the time of the unit exam. Assignments may not be submitted after the unit exam.

Grading Rubric for Weekly Assignments

100%	All notes and the practice exercises from class are submitted.
70%	Practice exercises are included, but no evidence of notes from the Blackboard lesson was submitted.
30%	Notes from the Blackboard lesson are included, but not sufficient evidence of the practice exercises was submitted.
–20%	The assignment was submitted past the due date.
–X%	**Points may be deducted for any of the following:** – Failing to show required work – Submitting work that is not your own (including work generated by AI tools) – Not attempting assigned problems

Quiz Format and Policy: Expect a face-to-face quiz to be administered on specified days in the calendar below. No late quizzes will be accepted, as quizzes are to be taken during the class time. Quizzes will be submitted to your facilitator, who will then scan and email the quizzes to me. (see HB 1481 syllabus statement)

Exam Format and Policy: Face-to-face examinations will be given on specified days in the calendar below. Exams are to be taken during the class time. No make-up exams will be given. The comprehensive final exam will be given on Wednesday, Dec 10 from 8:00–10:00am. Exams will be submitted to your facilitator, who will then scan and email the exams to me. (see HB 1481 syllabus statement)

Make-up Quizzes/Exams:
No make-up quizzes and exams are given without prior notification AND proper documentation. If you are absent from a quiz or exam, you must give prior notification and proper documentation of your absence. You will need to schedule a time with your facilitator to take the quiz or exam before the scheduled date of the quiz or exam. You will also need to contact the instructor of the course, informing them that you are taking the quiz or exam

early. If a student does not take the make-up quiz/exam before the next class period, then they will receive a grade of 0 for that quiz/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.

To maximize your potential for successfully completing this course:

- Login to Blackboard daily.
- Watch the lecture videos and take notes on them.
- Thoroughly complete and submit the assignments on time.
- Practice the exercises repeatedly until you have full mastery of 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 can not receive an X, the instructor will assign an F.

Before arriving for the class meeting, make certain you have:

- worked through the notes and videos for that day's lessons;
- completed some of the assigned exercises.

Upon arriving at the class meeting, we will:

- answer questions over exercises;
- work through lab exercises;
- submit assignments and quizzes.

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.
http://www.southplainscollege.edu/explореprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php

Brainfuse
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

For questions regarding tutoring, please email tutoring@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-224

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.

Plagiarism and Cheating Statement: 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.

COVID Response: South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: COVID Response (southplainscollege.edu).

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).

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.

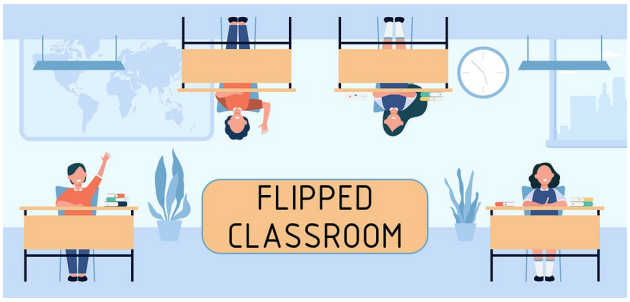
Texas HB 1481 Compliance:
In accordance with Texas Education Code § 37.082 (House Bill 1481, effective as of June 20, 2025), students in this math course are prohibited from using personal communication devices—including cell phones, smartwatches, tablets (unless district-issued), earbuds, or any device capable of digital communication—while physically on campus during the school day, from the first bell to the last bell. Devices must be powered off and stored out of sight, either in a backpack, locker, or a school-approved secure pouch.

Exceptions are permitted only for documented cases, such as IEP or Section 504 accommodations, physician-authorized medical need, or legal safety requirements.

Students enrolled in this dual credit course may use personal communication devices (phones, tablets, laptops) to complete online assignments only when not physically on school property during the school day. If attending class or working from a high school campus, students must follow local policy in compliance with HB 1481. Students are encouraged to complete online work from home or college campuses when possible, using district-issued or personal devices as needed.

Instructor's Note: For this class, students will be taking quizzes and exams while on school property, during school hours. Students will need to submit their work to a facilitator, teacher, or counselor, who will then scan and email the student's work to me as a single PDF file. Students should plan on submitting work for assignments outside of school hours.

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.



Tips for Learning in a Flipped Classroom

This class is a flipped classroom and will operate differently than the face-to-face classroom that you have previously experienced. In a flipped classroom you will spend time outside of class watching and taking notes from lecture videos while during class you will work on your homework assignments. This flipped classroom setting will open more opportunities for me, the instructor, to work with you by addressing homework questions, facilitating class discussions, and having collaborative assignments. Here are some suggestions that will help you operate within this flipped classroom environment and help you successfully complete this course.

Lecture Videos

- Watch the lecture videos in a quiet and distraction-free setting
- Silence your cellphone
- Close all other tabs and windows on your computer
- Disconnect from any social media while watching the lecture videos
- Have class notes or notebook and writing device for taking notes
- Use a set of headphones to watch to videos, in order to cancel all ambient noise

Note-Taking Tips

- Take careful notes from the videos
- Draw appropriate diagrams and charts in your notes
- Frequently pause the video to take notes
- "Rewind" the video when you don't understand things
- When the instructor tells you to solve a problem or write something down, do it
- Write down questions in your notes from the lecture video when you don't understand something

How to Prepare for Assessments

- Contact the instructor with your questions and ask the instructor for help and clarification
- Work with your classmates
- Offer to help your classmates with things you understand
- Ask for help from your classmates when they understand more than you
- Take any opportunity to review current and previous material
- Review graded assessments and seek to understand any errors made in your work

Tentative Course Calendar: College Algebra (ITV MWF 9:00)
Fall 2025

Date	Topic	Assignment and Quiz Due Dates • Assignments are due by 11:59 pm on corresponding Saturdays. • Quizzes will be administered on Fridays during class.
Week 1: Aug 25-29	• Course Introduction • 1.1: Linear and Rational Equations	1.1 Quiz 1
Week 2: Sept 1-5 (Sept 1:Labor Day Holiday)	• 1.2: Linear Applications	1.2 Quiz 2
Week 3: Sept 8-12	• 1.3: Complex Numbers; Quadratic Equations Part 1 • 1.4: Quadratic Equations Part 2, Radical Equations	1.3 and 1.4 Quiz 3
Week 4: Sept 15-19	• 1.5: Other Types of Equations; Linear and Absolute Value Inequalities • Review for Exam 1	1.5 Quiz 4
Week 5: Sept 22-26	• **Exam 1 (Mon, Sep 22 and Wed, Sep 24)** • 2.1: Functions and Their Graphs	
Week 6: Sept 29-Oct 3	• 2.2: Linear Functions and Slope • 2.3: Distance, Midpoint, & Circles	2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 Quiz 5
Week 7: Oct 6-10	• 2.4: Composite and Inverse Functions • 2.5: Quadratic Functions and Synthetic Division • Review for Exam 2	2.4 and 2.5 Quiz 6
Week 8: Oct 13-17 (Oct 17: SPC Fall Break)	• **Exam 2 (Mon, Oct 13 & Wed, Nov 15)** • 3.1: Polynomial Functions & Their Graphs • Fall Break	
Week 9: Oct 20-24	• 3.2: Rational Functions & Their Graphs • 3.3: Polynomial & Rational Inequalities	3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 Quiz 7
Week 10: Oct 27-31	• 3.4: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions • 3.5: Properties of Logarithms	3.4 and 3.5 Quiz 8
Week 11: Nov 3-7	• 3.6: Exponential and Logarithmic Equations • Review for Exam 3	3.6 Quiz 9
Week 12: Nov 10-14	• **Exam 3 (Mon, Nov 10 & Wed, Nov 12)** • 4.1: 2x2 Systems; 3x3 Systems	
Week 13: Nov 17-21	• 4.1: 2x2 Systems; 3x3 Systems (continued) • 4.2: Matrix Solutions to Systems	4.1 and 4.2 Quiz 10
Week 14: Nov 24-28 (Nov 26-28: Thanksgiving Holiday)	• 4.3: Nonlinear Systems and Systems of Inequalities	
Week 15: Dec 1-5 (Dec 4: Last day to drop Fall courses)	• 4.4: Determinants and Cramer's Rule • Review for Final Exam	4.3 and 4.4
Week 16: Dec 8-11	• **Final Exam** **Wednesday, December 10, from 8:00-10:00am**	