

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: MATH 0315
Revised August 2020

Department: Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science

Discipline: Mathematics

Course Number: MATH 0315

Course Title: Beginning Algebra

Available Formats: conventional/flex and internet

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Plainview, and Lubbock Center

Course Description: This course is designed for those students who need MATH 0314 or MATH 0324 and did not score a minimum of 340 on the TSIA. It includes properties of signed numbers, algebraic expressions, linear equations in one unknown and geometry. Time in a math lab is required. This course will not satisfy graduation requirements. The course is required if testing indicates a need.

Prerequisite: Maximum score of 339 on TSIA without an ABE score or a successful completion of NCBM 0105.

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

Textbook: *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra*, Sullivan/Struve/Mazzarella, 2018, 4th Edition, Prentice Hall/Pearson Education

Supplies: Please see the instructor's course information sheet for specific supplies.

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.
10. Factor polynomials.
11. Solve quadratic equations by factoring.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: None

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.

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.

COVID Syllabus Statement: Should be provided by the Vice-President of Student Services over email.

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.

Diversity Statement: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate

arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Nondiscrimination Policy: South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement: If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To [activate](#) accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or [email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

Campus Concealed Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php> Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

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.

Course Information

Mathematics 0315 – Beginning Algebra

Section: 002, MW 11:00 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Room: Math and Engineering, Room 124

“Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing.” – Socrates

“There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.” – Jiddu Krishnamurti

Instructor: Joshua Keneda, Ph.D. (Dr. K)

Office Hours:

Office: Levelland Math Building, Room 104

See Office Hours Schedule on Blackboard

Email: jkeneda@southplainscollege.edu

Note about Office Hours: Any student is more than welcome to visit during any scheduled office hours, however, for the student’s visit to be most effective it is best to make an appointment. Students from other classes are often visiting during office hours, and other college responsibilities may prevent office hours without notice. Virtual office hours will also be held, depending on demand.

Reference Textbook: (The textbook is **not** required for the course, but the student is welcome to purchase any of the following textbooks. However, I’d recommend emailing me to see if there are any free resources first.)

Sullivan, Struve, and Mazzarella, (2017), *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra*, 4th Edition, Prentice Hall/Pearson Education. ISBN: 978-0134556079

Sullivan, Struve, and Mazzarella, (2013), *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra*, 3rd Edition, Prentice Hall/Pearson Education. ISBN: 978-0321880116

Miller, O’neil, and Hyde, (2013), *Beginning and Intermediate Algebra*, 4th Edition, McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0073384511

Hybrid Course Information and Supplies

Blackboard is the online course management system that will be utilized for this course. This course syllabus, as well as any class handouts, can be accessed through Blackboard. Lectures may be attended in-person (assuming we have enough space) or via Collaborate on Blackboard. Lecture videos will be posted on Blackboard within a few days of the recordings. Login at <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>. The user name and password should be the same as the MySPC and SPC email logins.

User name: first initial, last name, and last 4 digits of the Student ID

Password: Original CampusConnect Pin No. (found on SPC acceptance letter), unless changed

Supplies: Pencil, a 1.5-inch to 3-inch ring binder (optional), loose-leaf paper (graph paper is recommended), access to smartphone or scanner (for uploading assignments), access to computer/webcam with internet capable of streaming/uploading video (for attending class remotely and possibly taking exams) **(NO CALCULATORS)**

Course Requirements

To maximize the potential to complete this course, a student should attend all class meetings (either in person or remotely), take notes and participate in class, and complete all homework assignments, quizzes, and examinations including final examinations.

Class Cancellation

In the event of the class being canceled by the school, the student will be responsible for the lecture material. The class will continue on the calendar presented unless otherwise noted. All information needed is on Blackboard and should be accessed by the student.

COVID Mask Policy

It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-

compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to alter any class policies as deemed necessary by the instructor or South Plains College and will announce any changes in class. If a student has any questions about a change in policy, ask the instructor for clarification.

Withdrawal

If you wish to withdraw from this class for any reason, you must initiate the appropriate steps on your own. To withdraw from this class, you will need to go to the Admissions and Records office either on the Levelland campus, the Reese Center campus, or the Lubbock Center, and fill out a drop notification form, and pay \$5. The drop form can be obtained online in MySPC, under the Student Forms and Tools link. Please be aware that SPC may not permit an undergraduate student to drop a total of more than six courses (including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education) if the student enrolled in college for the first time during the Fall 2007 academic term or any term subsequent to the Fall 2007 term.

Email Policy

All students at South Plains College are assigned a standardized SPC e-mail account. Although personal e-mail 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 MySPC and click the SPC Google Mail option under Campus Bookmarks. (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. Please mention your class (e.g. Beginning Algebra, Business Math, etc.) in your email, so that I know which class you're asking about.

Final Grading Policy

All grades are rounded from the tenths place. Upon the submission of grades at the end of the semester, **ALL GRADES ARE FINAL!**

Grading Scale

90 or above	A
80 to 89	B
70 to 79	C
60 to 69	D
59 and below	F

Assignment Weights

Practice Assessment			40 points total
<i>Quizzes</i>	10 @ 2 points		20 points
<i>Homework</i>	13 @ 1 point		13 points
<i>Attendance</i>	14 @ 0.5 points		7 points
Aptitude Assessment			60 points total
<i>Exams</i>	4 @ 10 points		40 points
<i>Final Exam</i>	1 @ 20 points		20 points
Total Points			100 points

All supplemental material and a close approximation of your current grade are available all semester on South Plains College's Blackboard server.

Feedback

The instructor will usually return feedback within one week.

Religious Holy Days

In accordance with Section 51.911, Texas Education Code, South Plains College will allow a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within seven (7) calendar days after the absence. Students are required to file a written notification of absence with each instructor within the first fifteen (15) days of the semester in which the absence will occur. Forms for this purpose are available in the Student

Services Office along with instructions and procedures. "Religious holy days" means a holy day observed by a religion whose place of worship is exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. (copied from current South Plains College catalog)

Sexual Misconduct

As a faculty member, I am deeply invested in the well-being of each student I teach. I am here to assist you with your work in this course. If you come to me with other non-course-related concerns, I will do my best to help.

It is important for you to know that all faculty members are mandated reporters of any incidents of sexual misconduct. That means that I cannot keep information about sexual misconduct confidential if you share that information with me. Mrs. Crystal Gilster, the Director of Health & Wellness, can advise you confidentially as can any counselor in the Health & Wellness Center. They can also help you access other resources on campus and in the local community. You can reach Mrs. Crystal Gilster at 716-2362 or cgilster@southplainscollege.edu or go by the Health and Wellness Center. You can schedule an appointment with a counselor by calling 716-2529.

Holiday/Travel Statement*

If a student has pre-existing plans to travel out of the area during scheduled class times, you must inform the instructor **at least two weeks before your planned absences**. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of any assignments/exams that are not completed during your dates of absence. These assignments will not be replaced or allowed for make-up work.

Resources

- **Free** tutoring at Levelland is available in room 116 of the Mathematics-Engineering Building, at the Reese Center campus in room RC 207 in Building 2, and at the Lubbock Center Computer Lab in Lubbock (3907 Avenue Q). Please remember to sign in when you seek the help of a tutor in each of these places.
- The South Plains College Department of Mathematics and Engineering has put a copy of the textbooks for this course on reserve in the **Levelland and Reese Campus** Libraries.
- Free online tutoring will become available sometime during the semester. The instructor will add a link to this tutoring program to the course Blackboard page when it becomes possible to do so.

Optional Binders

I would recommend that you purchase a 3-ring binder or at least a folder in which to keep all of your organized notes. I won't be checking/requiring binders, but I think that keeping a binder will help you to stay organized.

Homework

Achieving success in this class will require giving regular effort outside of class, especially by doing homework. If you plan to be successful in this class, expect to spend a **minimum** of 4 to 6 hours outside of class every week maintaining or increasing your math skills. Homework is a planned practice for students to master the skills taught in class and necessary for higher-level mathematics courses.

Every student must do homework. Homework will be assigned daily. The assigned homework will be available on the South Plains College's Blackboard server, for optional printing. A student's homework will be given full credit as long as each problem is fully attempted. Points will be lost for incomplete attempts or missing work. Though the homework problems are not graded for correctness, this practice is required in order to more fully understand each topic and to successfully navigate the quizzes and the exams. The homework that was assigned during the previous week will be scanned to a .pdf by the student (either using a scanner or a smartphone app) and collected on the Blackboard page. No credit will be given for homeworks that are submitted in an incorrect format (e.g. as a .jpg). Due dates will be posted on the Blackboard page. Homeworks that are turned in up to one week late will receive half credit. Homeworks over one week late will receive no credit. **Failure to show work on a problem will result in no credit given for that problem.**

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given in class or through Blackboard to assess if the student is practicing and mastering their math skills (doing homework). Questions will be similar to the questions in the assigned homework. No make-up quizzes will be allowed. If we take more than 10 quizzes during the semester, only your top 10 quiz scores will count toward your semester grade. The other quizzes will be dropped.

Exams*

Exams are used to assess the amount of the course objectives that the student has mastered. The answer boxed will be the answer graded and only one answer will be graded. Tentative exam dates will be noted in the class calendar and announced in class. Exams must be taken in-person unless otherwise noted. Some dishonesty controls (like the use of Proctorio, etc.) may be required, at the instructor's discretion. Quarantined students will take the exam online in a Zoom meeting with the instructor, and arrangements must be made via email *before the exam* in order to take the exam this way. A webcam is required to take the exam online. Students have the scheduled class time to take exams and the time scheduled by the college to take the final exam. No student will be allowed to begin an exam after the first person has turned in their exam and left the classroom. If the student does poorly on their first exam, they are **required** to schedule an appointment to discuss their performance with the instructor in their office.

If a student should have to miss an exam, the instructor will consider replacing the missed exam with the final exam score only if the student notifies the instructor at least two days before the exam is missed.

Exams can be rescheduled with the instructor, but the request for rescheduling must be made via email at least two days before the exam takes place. If no such arrangements are made and the exam is missed, then the student will receive no credit for that exam.

Exam Corrections (Bonus Point Opportunity)

Students can correct one exam (excluding the final exam), of their choice, by the last day of the class (the last class before Finals Week) for seventy-five percent (75%) of their missed points on that exam. To complete the exam correction, the student will correct the questions missed on the exam on a different sheet of paper and return the corrections with the original exam. The instructor will give more details as Finals Week approaches.

Exam Schedule

The exam dates may be modified if the schedule needs to be adjusted, but any change to the exam dates will be announced at least one week before the new exam date.

Final Exam*

There will be a **comprehensive** final exam at the end of the semester. Failure to attempt the final exam will result in a failing grade for the course. The final exam will be given at the scheduled time determined by South Plains College, not during the typical class time. Conflicts in test schedules should be worked out with individual instructors at least a week before the final is administered. A student's library records and all financial records must be clear before the student will be allowed to take final examinations in any course.

Expectations of the Instructor

The student is within all rights to expect that the instructor does the following:

- Show up, as scheduled, to teach all the information pertaining to the course.
- Provide notice of any schedule changes.
- Maximize the time allotted for this course by assessing student aptitude for covered information at the close of each lecture, when time permits.
- Present the material in a manner that can generally be understood by the majority of the class.
- Be accessible to those who need assistance outside of the classroom setting, by way of e-mail or in person, during office hours or reasonably scheduled appointment times.
- Hold to any assignment(s) given during the course of the semester unless removed.
- Uphold the policies of the college as it pertains to the student's welfare in the course.
- Not make any exceptions regarding the dismissal of any student from the course for reasons listed herein.
- Allow each student the opportunity to discuss the material presented during the lecture period.
- Provide examinations based on the information discussed in class that contains problems which use solving methods **similar** to those assigned from sections pertaining to the exam.

Expectations of the Student

The instructor is within all rights to expect that the student does the following:

- Show up on time, as scheduled, to receive and learn all information pertinent to the course and be mindful of any schedule changes.
- If you are going to withdraw from this course, then **all withdrawals must be done by the drop date**. There will be no withdrawals given after this date.
- READ THE SYLLABUS!!! You will remain subject to the criteria outlined herein whether you read this or not, so it is in your best interest to do so!
- Take advantage of **all** resources available to you. In the collegiate setting, all students are considered adults and are expected to uphold conduct worthy of such consideration.
- Be mindful of the classroom setting and the roles therein. While student tuition is vital to the well-being of this academic institution, this does NOT warrant the concession of an instructor to you in a manner that compromises the integrity of the classroom setting and that of the institution itself.
- Bring all materials needed for the course and refrain from bringing anything that is not needed.
- Be willing to work together with – **BUT NOT DO WORK FOR** – fellow classmates.
- Keep all homework assignments organized in a binder. This will prove to be helpful in preparing for the exams.
- **Write all graded work legibly and in pencil only. All work not done in pencil will not be accepted by the instructor and will cause you to receive a grade of zero percent (0%) for the work in question.**
- Work homework early enough to get help, if needed.
- Turn all electronic devices **off** that have no use in the classroom setting. If an unsanctioned device is in use during an exam, then its grade will be zero percent (0%) and possible removal from the course.
- Obtain all missed information and assignments from a fellow classmate. **NO LATE WORK will be accepted!**

