



**Common Course Syllabus: College Algebra (MATH 1314)  
Spring 2025**

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

**Discipline:** Mathematics

**Course Number:** MATH 1314

**Section:** 610

**Course Title:** College Algebra

**Available Formats:** conventional, hybrid, internet, and ITV. The format of this section will be conventional.

**Campuses:** Levelland, Downtown Center, Plainview Center, and Dual Credit. This section meets face-to-face on the Lubbock Downtown campus each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am-12:45pm in room B030.

**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](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.

- 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: 1:30-3:30pm
- Fridays: by appointment only
- Students are welcome to come by my office anytime during my scheduled office hours.
- Appointments may be scheduled by contacting me by email or in person, or by scheduling through Blackboard.
- Virtual appointments may also be scheduled 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](http://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. A TI-30 is one 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 printer to print documents. Make certain you have access to a scanner or scanning app. Gradescope is the recommended app.
- 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 = 15% (5% of the assignment average is extra credit)
- Quizzes = 10%
- Exam 1 = 20%
- Exam 2 = 20%
- Exam 3 = 20%
- Final Exam = 20%

**Assignment Format and Policy:** Assignments are given after each lesson and are collected according to the Tentative Course Calendar.

For each question on each assignment:

- Write your name at the top of each page of your work.
- Write the assignment title on the first page of your work.
- For each assigned problem write the problem number.
- In solving the problem, show all the necessary work.
- Clearly mark your answer.
- Check your answers in Blackboard to make certain you are practicing the exercises correctly.
- Submit your work for the assignment and corresponding section notes in Gradescope as a single PDF file, preferably using the Gradescope app.
  - You can also submit your work on the web at Gradescope.com. You will need to scan your work either with a scanner or your phone to a PDF file and upload the file from your computer or phone. (PDF files can also be generated easily using a scanner or many freely available phone apps, like CamScanner, Scannable, or OneDrive.)
- All homework assignments will be due by 12:00 pm of the corresponding Friday. (See the Tentative Course Calendar for due dates)

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:**

Percentage of Assignment Grade	Criteria
70%	All practice exercises are attempted, and all required work is shown. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A subset of problems from the assignment <u>may</u> be graded, which will account for no more than 30% of the assignment grade.</li> </ul>
30%	Notes from the Blackboard lesson completed
-15%	The assignment was submitted past the due date.

**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 scanned and submitted into Gradescope by the end of that day’s class meeting.

**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 13 from 8:00–10:00am.

**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/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

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

**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 \(southplainscollege.edu\)](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.

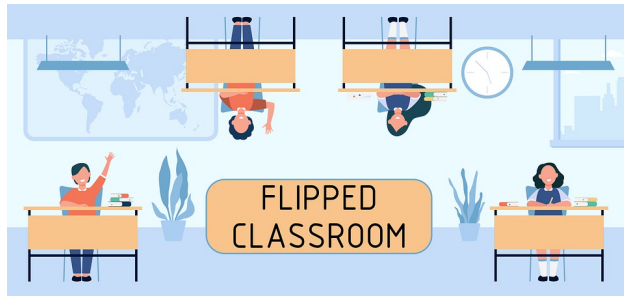
If students have already purchased textbooks and then find a better price later, the South Plains College bookstore will price match through the first week of the semester. The student must have a copy of the receipt and the book has to be in stock at the competition at the time of the price match.

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.*



## **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 the 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 (TT 9:00) Spring 2025

Date	Topic	Assignment and Quiz Due Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignments are due by <u>12:00pm</u> on corresponding Fridays.</li> <li>• Quizzes are due by the end of the class meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 1:</b> Jan 13-17	Course Introduction 1.1: Linear and Rational Equations	1.1
<b>Week 2:</b> Jan 20-24 (Mon, Jan 20 is a holiday)	<b>Labor Day</b> 1.2: Linear Applications 1.3: Complex Numbers; Quadratic Equations Part 1	1.2, 1.3 Quiz 1 (Tue), Quiz 2 (Thur)
<b>Week 3:</b> Jan 27-31	1.4: Quadratic Equations Part 2, Radical Equations 1.5: Other Types of Equations; Linear and Absolute Value Inequalities	1.4, 1.5 Quiz 3 (Tue), Quiz 4 (Thur)
<b>Week 4:</b> Feb 3-7	Review for Exam 1 (Tue) <b>Exam 1 (Thur, Feb 6)</b>	
<b>Week 5:</b> Feb 10-14	2.1: Functions and Their Graphs 2.2: Linear Functions and Slope	2.1, 2.2 Quiz 5 (Thur)
<b>Week 6:</b> Feb 17-21	2.3: Distance, Midpoint, & Circles 2.4: Composite and Inverse Functions	2.3, 2.4 Quiz 6 (Tue), Quiz 7 (Thur)
<b>Week 7:</b> Feb 24-28	2.5: Quadratic Functions and Synthetic Division	2.5 Quiz 8 (Tue), Quiz 9 (Thur)
<b>Week 8:</b> Mar 3-7	Review for Exam 2 (Tue) <b>Exam 2 (Thur, Mar 6)</b>	
<b>Week 9:</b> Mar 10-14	3.1: Polynomial Functions & Their Graphs 3.2: Rational Functions & Their Graphs	3.1, 3.2 Quiz 10 (Thur)
<b>Spring Break (March 17-21)</b>		
<b>Week 10:</b> Mar 24-28	3.3: Polynomial & Rational Inequalities 3.4: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	3.3, 3.4 Quiz 11 (Tue), Quiz 12 (Thur)
<b>Week 11:</b> Mar 31-Apr 4	3.5: Properties of Logarithms 3.6: Exponential and Logarithmic Equations	3.5, 3.6 Quiz 13 (Tue), Quiz 14 (Thur)
<b>Week 12:</b> Apr 7-11	Review for Exam 3 (Tue) <b>Exam 3 (Thur, Apr 10)</b>	
<b>Week 13:</b> Apr 14-18	4.1: 2x2 Systems; 3x3 Systems 4.2: Matrix Solutions to Systems	4.1 and 4.2 Quiz 15 (Thur)
<b>Week 14:</b> Apr 21-25	4.3: Nonlinear Systems and Systems of Inequalities 4.4: Determinants and Cramer's Rule	4.3, 4.4 Quiz 16 (Tue), Quiz 17 (Thur)
<b>Week 15:</b> Apr 28-May 2	Review for Final Exam	
<b>Week 16:</b> May 5-8	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>Tuesday, May 6 from 10:15am-12:15pm</b>	