



MATH 1314.602/MATH1014.602 College Algebra OLC-A

Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Leyva

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Online Class HELP SESSIONS: Thursdays 2 – 3 pm in Blackboard

Office: Classroom Hall 314X or online

Office Hours (Student Help Sessions)	
Mondays	10 am – 12 pm
Tuesdays	10 am – 12 pm or 4 – 5 pm
Wednesdays	11 am – 12 pm or 3:30 – 4:30 pm or 7 – 8 pm
Thursdays	By appointment
Fridays	10 am – 12 pm or 3 – 5 pm
Saturdays	By appointment
**Please do not hesitate to ask if you need to meet at a different time!	

Credit hours: 3 credits MATH

Course Overview: 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. This course meets the standards for the Mathematics category of courses under the core curriculum.

Prerequisites: Evidence of math equivalent to High School Algebra II (“C” or higher) or placement; TSIA met in mathematics

Course Materials

REQUIRED: Online access code for *College Algebra* by Robert F. Blitzer (8th edition) with MyMathLab, Pearson Publishing, (E-book included with access code).

**Access codes are available in Blackboard, through the Brytewave link

**You will automatically be billed directly for your access code to your student account. Please see your instructor if you choose to opt out.

OPTIONAL: Notebook for class handouts, notes, etc.

Calculators: A scientific non-graphing, non-programmable calculator is required; TI-30XIIS is recommended.

No cell phone or graphing calculators will be allowed on exams, and online math utilities (e.g., Desmos) are also not allowed.

GRADING POLICY

# of Graded Items	Graded Course Elements	Percentage
Approx. 36	Homework (completed on MyMathLab)	10%
11	Weekly Quizzes (completed on MyMathLab)	10%
15	Weekly Attendance and Participation	5%
4	Unit Tests	55%
1	Final Exam	20%

Grade Scale for MATH 1314: 90 – 100% = A; 80 – 89% = B; 70 – 79% = C; 60 – 69% = D Below 60% = F

Grade Scale for MATH 1014: 60 - 90% = PASS Below 60% = FAIL

GRADING POLICY CONTINUED

*No late homework or quizzes will be allowed, and individual make-up exams will be given in rare cases and only with instructor approval.

*The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

*The final examination is a comprehensive exam and is required of all students. The final exam may also replace a low or missing test grade.

*The grading policy may be amended during the semester at the instructor's discretion.

Student Learner Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate understanding and 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 and explain related equations.
3. Interpret and apply graphing techniques.
4. Evaluate all roots of higher degree polynomial and rational functions.
5. Recognize, solve, apply and explain systems of linear equations using matrices

MATH 1314 helps students develop critical thinking, communication, and empirical and quantitative skills by focusing on student understanding of key algebraic concepts and appropriate applications related to everyday experience.

List of Topics: Topics to be covered include but are not limited to the following:

1. Solving linear equations and applying models (Sections 1.2~1.3)
2. Complex numbers (Section 1.4)
3. Solving quadratic, rational, and radical equations (Sections 1.2~ 1.5~1.6)
4. Solving linear and compound inequalities (Section 1.7)
5. Solving absolute value equations and inequalities (Sections 1.6~1.7)
6. Distance formula and circles (Section 2.8)
7. Functions and their graphs (Sections 2.1 ~ 2.2)
8. Linear functions and slope (Sections 2.3 ~ 2.4)
9. Transformations of functions and graphing (Section 2.5)
10. Combinations and compositions of functions (Section 2.6)
11. Inverse functions (Section 2.7)
12. Quadratic functions and graphing (Section 3.1)
13. Polynomial functions and graphing (Section 3.2)
14. Zeros of polynomial functions (Sections 3.3 ~ 3.4)
15. Rational functions and graphing (Section 3.5)
16. Introduction to polynomial and rational inequalities (Section 3.6)
17. Direct, inverse, and combined variation (Section 3.7)
18. Exponential and logarithmic functions (Sections 4.1 ~ 4.2)
19. Properties of logarithms: solving exponential and logarithmic equations (Sections 4.3 ~ 4.4)
20. Applications with log and exponential functions (Sections 4.4~ 4.5)
21. Systems of linear and non-linear equations and matrices (Sections 5.1 ~ 5.2, 5.4 and 6.1)
22. More on solutions of systems of linear equations (Sections 6.2 and 6.5)
23. Properties of matrices (Section 6.3)
24. Introduction to sequences and series (Sections 8.1~8.3)

The instructor reserves the right to modify/update the topics as appropriate.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Class Attendance/Participation tasks: Each week you will have an attendance/participation grade, which is based on you completing tasks that you are asked to do that week. This is an easy grade if you just follow directions and stay checked in from week to week. Participation tasks may include but are not limited to the following: MML HW, quizzes, and/or tests; other assigned tasks. Be aware of any announcements and course policy changes made in class. Announcements and changes will be communicated through Blackboard. You are welcome to ask questions during my office hours; however, it is your responsibility to learn the material. Also, remember that there will be weekly online help sessions every Thursday from 2-3 pm.

Learning New Content: In this online class, you will learn content by watching the **section video presentations** in the MyMathLab program. These videos can be accessed from the Chapter Contents menu or in the assignments list in MML. There is also a power point presentation for each section within MML.

If you do not have a high-speed Internet connection, it may be difficult to log in to the class or to view the recordings. The section videos contain instruction on each objective that is to be covered in the course. If you don't watch the videos it is equivalent to not coming to class, and will make the HW difficult to complete.

Help sessions will be held online every Thursday from 2-3 pm, and will be recorded for you to watch later if needed.

Homework: All homework and quizzes will be completed online in MyMathLab (MML). You will need an access code that has been sent to you via Brytewave. Please check your student email OR look for the Brytewave link in your Blackboard course to find your access code. Read the announcements in Blackboard for all instructions. All due dates are listed in MML. You can complete the assignments until 11:59 pm of the due date listed. The homework may be attempted multiple times in order to increase your homework grade. No late assignments will be accepted nor make-ups allowed.

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be due in MyLathLab. All due dates are listed in MML. Quizzes may be attempted three times, and each quiz attempt has a time limit. Only the highest score will be counted. Students should attempt the quiz multiple times in order to be prepared for the unit test. No late assignments will be accepted nor make-ups allowed. At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Tests: Four unit tests are scheduled during the semester and a comprehensive final exam. Make sure to follow the deadline dates listed in MML, and watch for the test announcements. The tests will be taken in a proctored setting like the campus Testing Center, and you will need to show your work to get full credit for the problems. For each test, students will have a four-day window and can make an appointment to take the exam anytime in that window. You will have only one attempt. Each test will have a time limit (typically 90 – 120 minutes). Students will be allowed to use a non-graphing calculator on the tests. In case you miss an exam or find out that you will miss an exam, you should contact me either in person or by e-mail, at least one week in advance of the exam for non-emergency cases or within 24-hrs of the scheduled exam date for emergency cases. Any missed exam counts as a 0 unless the student has a valid documented excuse and contacts me as soon as possible after the excuse for missing the test arises. Examples of valid documented excuses are sickness documented with a doctor's note, death in the family documented with a copy of the death notice, attending university-sponsored events with a Dean's excuse, etc. Minor headaches or attending sports events (without Dean's excuse) are not examples of emergency situations. Other than described above, no make-up exams will be given, but the final exam can replace your lowest test grade. Test dates are listed below. Please contact me ASAP if you have concerns about the testing dates.

Exam #1 – week 4 – Fri 9/13 – Tues 9/17

Exam #2 – week 7 – Wed 10/9 – Sat 10/12

Exam #3 – week 11 – Mon 11/4 – Thurs 11/7

Exam #4 – week 13 – Wed 11/20 – Sat 11/23

FINAL EXAM – week 16 - Sat 12/7 – Wed 12/11

Final Exam: In order to pass this class students must take a comprehensive final exam scheduled during Finals Week. Final exams cannot be rescheduled or missed (for dire and unforeseen medical or family emergencies, students must consult with me). The final exam will also be taken online with work submitted to justify your solutions. The final exam may be used to replace your lowest regular exam grade. **The final exam must be completed by the announced due date. No exceptions.**

Gradebook: The gradebooks in MML and in Blackboard keep a running average of your grade. I will review all quizzes in order to assign partial credit where possible. (*I look for answers that are technically correct but have not been submitted in 'good form'. An example would be an answer of 14/16 that has not been simplified to 7/8. Your answers will be more complicated than this example, but you get the idea that I will be looking for answers that are technically correct.) I will NOT review HW answers because you have unlimited attempts for each problem.

CircleIn: Our class will use the [CircleIn](#) app to study and help one another succeed in this course. Studying and learning alone is one of the hardest parts of a course, so please leverage one another. With CircleIn, you can

- **Ask anonymous questions**
- Connect with all students taking the same course in addition to those in this class with you, via the course and class chat. Please note, this app does NOT require you to give out your personal contact information to anyone.
- Participate in video study rooms
- Stay organized with assignments and tasks using the planner feature
- Create, study & share flashcards, notes & resources with every student taking the course.
- Provide anonymous weekly course feedback to share with me and the class what you're struggling with and what questions you have and you can help each other resolve those questions.

My expectation is that you engage with your classmates each week on CircleIn. For those of you needing help, use it to ask questions, and for those of you willing to help others, please check it often to look for questions that haven't been responded to yet. CircleIn is a leaderless student community where each of you is stronger together, particularly when you engage. I will get regular updates on how the class is doing on CircleIn. Lastly, CircleIn is paid for by Texas A&M University San Antonio, so you will never see advertising, you won't be asked for a credit card or banking info and you can communicate with any student directly through CircleIn, so you don't have to give out any personal contact information to set it up. Please take advantage of it today. See additional information in Blackboard to get started.

Theme: This semester we are part of a pilot project to make the mathematics you are learning more relevant to your world and the issues we face as a society. For this semester, whenever possible, I will be including examples of the mathematics we are learning and connect to the theme of WATER, an essential resource to life on planet Earth. You will also be given opportunities to create content around this theme.

CLASS RULES

1. **Regular participation and effort is VERY IMPORTANT in this class!** You are enrolling in a THREE HOUR math course, so expect to work on your Math work very frequently. Waiting to work on one day at the end of the week would be disastrous for this course!! Assignments will be due throughout the week – watch deadlines in MML closely. Failure to complete work in each unit will result in a lower participation grade – see below.
2. An absence in this online course is defined as the following: Not completing all tasks for the week with at least 50% completed.
3. Our typical 'week' will start with Monday's class and end the following Sunday. All assignments for the week will typically open on the weekend, and the first unit homework section(s) will close on Thursday. The second unit homework section(s) will close on Saturday, and the last homework and weekly quiz closes on the following Tuesday.
4. You must log in and complete required assignments to receive the maximum participation grade each week. Optional activities such as study plan or videos do not satisfy the participation requirement. To be counted as "participating", you must log in and complete graded assignments (e.g., homework, quiz, practice test, or test)

with a score greater than 50%. If needed, seek help so that you can re-take quizzes or re-try homework in order to get your grade up.

5. Please do not ask me to extend the due dates. Work ahead on the assignments instead (remember... if something can go wrong, it will).
6. If you need additional help, please ask! Your instructor is available to help, and students also have access to free online tutoring through Jaguar Tutoring in the ALC, located in the Central Academic Building, second floor. I will be available online every day, Mon - Fri. We can talk by phone if necessary. The best way to contact me is via email, eleyva@tamusa.edu.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

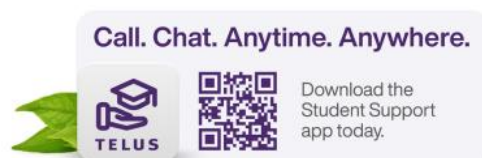
While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows) and are not part of a student's academic or university record. The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling. *Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2')*. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDC): The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. The Writing Center has both online and in person appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/student-resources/writing-center/index.html>. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable

them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; see <https://www.tamusa.edu/mays/students/generals-store.html> for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the

student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Important Dates:

August 26	First day of class
September 2	Labor Day Holiday
November 11	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 19	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
November 27	Study Day – No classes
November 28-30	Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes
December 5	Last day of classes
December 6	Study Day – No classes
December 7-13	Final exams

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>.

AI Policy: No Use of Generative AI Permitted

MATH1314 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio’s standards of academic integrity.