



MATH 1314.001/MATH1014.001 College Algebra

Fall 2026

Instructor: Krystal Lowery

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Class meeting: Monday 5:30 – 6:45 PM, Wednesday 5:30 – 7:50 PM

Office: Online at <https://tamusa.webex.com/meet/krystal.lowery>

Office hours: Mon 7 – 8 pm; Tues and Thurs 6 – 7 pm
Other times available by appointment

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; Requires a passing TSIA Math score.

Course Materials

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

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

OPTIONAL: Students can purchase a loose-leaf version of the text for a low cost if desired (check bookstore).
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)	15%
15	Weekly Attendance and Participation	5%
4	Unit Tests	55%
1	Final Exam	15%

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

*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 polynomials 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 students' 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)
9. Linear functions and slope (Sections 2.3 ~ 2.4)
10. Transformations of functions and graphing (Section 2.5)
11. Combinations and compositions of functions (Section 2.6)
12. Inverse functions (Section 2.7)
13. Quadratic functions and graphing (Section 3.1)
14. Polynomial functions and graphing (Section 3.2)
15. Zeros of polynomial functions (Sections 3.3 ~ 3.4)
16. Rational functions and graphing (Section 3.5)
17. Introduction to polynomial and rational inequalities (Section 3.6)
18. Direct, inverse, and combined variation (Section 3.7)
19. Exponential and logarithmic functions (Sections 4.1 ~ 4.2)
20. Properties of logarithms: solving exponential and logarithmic equations (Sections 4.3 ~ 4.4)
21. Applications with log and exponential functions (Sections 4.4~ 4.5)
22. Systems of linear and non-linear equations and matrices (Sections 5.1 ~ 5.2, 5.4 and 6.1)
23. More on solutions of systems of linear equations (Sections 6.2 and 6.5)
24. Properties of matrices (Section 6.3)
25. 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: Students are expected to attend live online lectures or watch the recordings on Blackboard. Be aware of what has been covered in every class and any announcements and course policy changes made in class. Announcements and changes will also be communicated through Blackboard. You are welcome to ask questions during my office hours; however, it is your responsibility to learn the material. Weekly attendance grades will be assigned based on either attending live lectures or class participation (see below).

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 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.

Supplemental Instruction: Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a program that provides you with additional resources to help learn course content and study skills. Your SI Leader will have weekly study sessions that cover difficult content and help you learn the study skills necessary for your course. SI Leaders also have office hours for 1-on-1 assistance. You will receive reminders from your leader on BlackBoard and via email. All handouts and any recorded materials will be available on BlackBoard underneath the Supplemental Instruction section. If you have any questions, contact your SI Leader (their information is on BlackBoard) or call (210) 784-1382 or email SI_Lab@tamusa.edu.

Learning New Content: In this online class, your instructor will hold 2 **webcasts** each week during our scheduled class time. The webcasts will be held in Blackboard in the “Online class meetings” tab of the course. If you miss a live webcast, you can watch the recording on Blackboard. You are expected to participate in and/or watch the recordings of all webcasts.

For additional information or details, you can also watch 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 PowerPoint presentation for each section within MML.

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

Homework: All homework and quizzes will be completed online in MyMathLab (MML). You will need an access code that can be purchased in the bookstore or online after you log into MyMathLab. Read the announcements in Blackboard for all instructions. All due dates are listed in MML. You can complete the assignments until 11:59 p.m. 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 will make-ups be 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 will make-ups be 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 four-unit tests will be taken online in the Testing Center**, and you will submit your work in order to get full credit for the problems. For each test, students will have a five-day window and can take the exam online anytime in that window. **Instructions will be given on how to sign up for a designated time with the Testing Center. If you cannot take your tests at the Testing Center, you will need to make arrangements with your professor. The semester exam will be on paper, not online, and will be taken at the Testing Center. Taking your tests in the Testing Center is a TAMUSA requirement.** 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 hours 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 a Dean's excuse) are not examples of emergency situations. Other than as described above, no make-up exams will be given, but the final exam can replace your lowest test grade. Test dates will be announced during class and posted. Please contact me ASAP if you have concerns about the testing dates.

Exam #1 – week 4 – TBA

Exam #2 – week 8 – TBA

Exam #3 – week 11 – TBA

Exam #4 – week 15 – TBA

FINAL EXAM – week 16 - TBA – during Final Exam period Dec 5 - 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 gradebook in MML keeps a running average of your grade; the gradebook in Blackboard is **NOT** accurate. 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.

CLASS RULES

1. **Regular participation and attendance are VERY IMPORTANT in this class!** You are enrolling in a SIX-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 six-hour 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 attending an online lecture at the scheduled time OR not watching the recorded session. You will receive a weekly attendance grade based on our online meetings.
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 will close on the following Tuesday.
4. You must log in and complete the required assignments to receive the maximum participation grade each week. Optional activities such as study plans 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. I will be available online. We can talk by phone if necessary. The best way to contact me is via email at klowery@tamusa.edu.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY 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 Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in suite 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

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 is an appointment-based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. The ALC is located on the second floor of Central Academic Building (CAB) in 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	9 am – 6 pm	11 am – 6 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 4 pm	8 am – 6 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	8 am – 6 pm
FRIDAY	11 am – 3 pm	11 am – 3:30 pm

Counseling Resources: As a college student, there may be a time when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at A&M-SA, please contact the Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC & WS) located in Modular C Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. All mental health services provided by SC & WS are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SC&WS provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling. In a crisis, please walk-in to the SC & WS services between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255

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 and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <http://www.tamusa.edu/riskmanagement/index.html>.

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 (WLDCC): 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 contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@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 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.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

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, equality of 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, diversity, pluralism 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, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran 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.

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, 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 University officials.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules and to comply with them, as well as 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 maintain a level of behavior that is consistent in supporting the learning environment of the institution and to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.

Electronic Devices: The use of phones or other electronic devices for non-class related activities is not allowed. Anyone who is observed text messaging or using an electronic device during class for a non-class related purpose will be given a warning, and as a further action, that person will be asked to drop the class. Devices should be turned off and put away during exams and quizzes.

Important Dates:

August 24	First day of classes
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
November 25	Study Day – No classes
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 - 11	Final exams

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

COVID-19 SYLLABUS STATEMENT

The safety of our campus community is paramount to our ability to provide our students, faculty, and staff with a productive and secure learning and working environment. While masks are not required, we do encourage everyone to wear a mask, particularly inside the buildings, in order to reduce the spread of covid-19. The university maintains a covid-19 web-site with current data, safety protocols, and reporting guidelines at <https://www.tamusa.edu/community-safety-together/index.html> .