

Lamar University

Department of Mathematics

MATH 1314-48F College Algebra (Noncalculus Track – 3 hours)
Fall 2017 Syllabus
Online

Instructor: Brian Gillespie
Office: Lucas 111
Phone: 409-880-2210 (only available during office hours)
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: Online Only via BlackBoard Course Mail
Fridays: 10:00am-12:00 pm *Subject to Change
Text: College Algebra (9th ed.) by Ron Larson, Required
WebAssign - Required, Access Through Blackboard
Blackboard - Course Announcements
Prerequisites: 350 Math TSI, TSI Complete, or TSI Exempt

NOTICE: This Online Course will use WebAssign, which will be accessed through the course's Blackboard page on <https://my.lamar.edu>. Please note that your instructor does not work for WebAssign, and cannot fix any technical issues that occur with the WebAssign website. If you encounter a problem on WebAssign, contact WebAssign support (<https://webassign.com/support/student-support/>).

Catalog Description: Study and applications of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations. Prepares for: MATH 1316, 1342, 1350, 3312 Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer. Please Note: This course **DOES NOT** prepare students to advance to the calculus sequence.

MATH 1314 Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will:

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.

Core Curriculum Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, the student will demonstrate his or her abilities to think critically, communicate quantitative information, and apply mathematical concepts:

1. **Critical Thinking:** Develop a logical, consistent plan to solve a problem, recognize consequences of the solution, and articulate a reason for choosing solution method.
2. **Communication Skills:** Use and present quantitative information in connection with an argument or problem solution and explicate it in an effective format.
3. **Empirical and Quantitative:** Construct and present a detailed problem statement with evidence of relevant contextual factors and possible approaches for solving the problem, then implement a solution and review the results.

Lectures/Discussions: This is an online course, which requires Blackboard and WebAssign. Students are expected to log in regularly to complete assignments, check for announcements, and communicate with the instructor and one another. **Students are warned that fewer than three sessions per week may not be conducive to achievement.**

At the start of the course, five homework assignments and a test from the prerequisite chapter will be assigned. Students will have until 11:30 pm on the date listed on Blackboard to complete all five assignments and the test. Students must complete each section before the next will become available, with the test being the last to become available. Unlike the three unit tests, students are allowed three attempts with the prerequisite test, which students should use to learn how tests will work for this course. The five assignments and test for the prerequisite chapter will count towards 10% of the student's overall grade, and the prerequisite test cannot be replaced by the optional final exam.

For the remaining sections, homework will be assigned at the start of each week. Two assignments will be assigned at midnight each Monday for the majority of the semester, excluding Test weeks. The first lesson's assignment will be due on Friday, with the second's assignment due on Sunday. WebAssign will be set to close the homework assignment at 11:30 PM (Central Time Zone) on the due date.

There will be three unit tests and a final exam; the highest three grades (excluding the prerequisite test) will be used for the test average. Students will have two days to complete and submit each test once they are assigned. WebAssign will be set to close each unit test at 11:30 PM (Central Time Zone) on the due date. Each test will have a time limit, which will be announced on BlackBoard. NOTE: No work is automatically submitted for grading. The student must click the submission button before 11:30 PM (Central Time Zone) on the due date. **There will be no exceptions allowed on due dates. Extensions will not be granted for any reason once a homework assignment or test is closed.**

Contacting the Instructor: All communications will be done through the "Course Mail" section on the course's BlackBoard page. Any message sent through this method will reach the instructor, and inform him which class the message is from. E-mails are not preferred, as they tend to not reach the instructor in a timely manner. **Do not send any message through WebAssign.**

Lectures/Discussions/Classwork/Homework Topics:

Exponents and Radicals	Linear Equations in Two Variable Functions
Polynomials and Special Products	Analyzing Graphs of Functions
Factoring Polynomials	Operations on Functions
Rational Expressions	Quadratic Functions and Models
Rectangular Coordinate System and Graphs	Exponential Functions
Graphs of Equations	Logarithmic Functions
Linear Equations in One Variable	Properties of Logarithms
Modeling with Linear Equations	Exponential and Logarithmic Equations
Quadratic Equations and Applications	Linear and Nonlinear Systems of Equations
Complex Numbers	Two Variable Linear Systems
Other Types of Equations	
Linear Inequalities in One Variable	
Other Types of Inequalities	

Grading Policies: The final grade will be computed by WebAssign using the average points earned on the prerequisite chapter assignments consisting of 5 homework assignments and a test (10% total), three unit tests (60%, or 20% each), and a percentage of points earned on homework (30%). **Late work will not be allowed for any reason.** The final grade will be based on the following scale: 90% A, 80% B, 70% C, 60% D, below 60% F.

A grade of INCOMPLETE may be granted in the case of a documented medical emergency, within the last four weeks of the semester and only if the student is passing. If an INCOMPLETE is granted, the student will be required to provide a written plan for completion of the course.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will not be taken for this course. This class will not meet on campus. However, Students are expected to log into Blackboard at least three days each week to check for announcements and work on assignments. Students are expected to gain full access to WebAssign no later than the end of the second week of class.

Final Exam: The final exam is optional if the student has an average at or above 70%. The final is planned to start at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 5. Anyone taking the final must have it submitted by 4:59 pm on Thursday, December 7. Please note that this time may change, and an announcement will be made on Blackboard if a change is made.

While I have made a sincere effort to ensure that this syllabus is correct, changes may be required. I will announce any substantive changes in a Blackboard announcement. If you find an error or omission, please advise me at once so that the other members of the class may be advised.

Student planning to seek certification to teach grades EC-4 or 4-8: Content standard skills covered in this course are: 1.6, 1.7, 1.13, 1.15, 1.18, 1.19, 1.23, 1.21, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.14, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.11, 5.12, 5.14, 5.15, 5.16, 5.17, 5.18

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Important Information for Students

Lamar University expressly prohibits intimidation and harassment of students, faculty, staff, or applicants. <http://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/code-of-conduct.html>

Drop Policy: Please make note of the three dates indicated in this drop policy. Any drop will be your responsibility; I will not drop a student from the course.

September 13, 2017: (Census Date-Six Drop Rule does not apply) A student may drop or withdraw without consulting with the instructor. The Six Drop Rule does not apply to a drop before 5:00 PM.

September 29, 2017: (Six Drop Rule applies) A student may drop or withdraw from the course without academic penalty and receive a Q, however, the Six Drop Rule applies. The student will consult with the instructor and the Records Office to initiate a drop.

November 3, 2017: (Six Drop Rule applies) Last day to drop or withdraw with academic penalty; the student must be passing the course at the time of the requested drop in order to receive a Q. The drop form, including all required signatures, must arrive in the Records Office by no later than 4:00 PM. No drop is allowed after this date except in extreme extenuating circumstances. Any “late drop” must be approved by the instructor, department chair, college dean, and provost.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Students are specifically warned against all forms of cheating and plagiarism. The *Lamar University Student Handbook* clearly reads: “Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subjected to disciplinary action. Punishable offenses include, but are not limited to, cheating on an examination or academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of source materials.” One aspect of the *Handbook’s* definition of cheating includes “purchasing or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.” Plagiarism is defined as “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or ideas into one’s own and submitted for credit.” Faculty members in the College of arts and Sciences investigate all cases of suspected plagiarism. Any student who is found cheating in this course will receive a course grade of F. <http://students.lamar.edu/student-handbook.html>

Accommodations through the Disability Resource Center: Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in the Communications building room 105. Office staff collaborate with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at [409-880-8347](tel:409-880-8347) or drc@lamar.edu to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the DRC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations. If you are registered with DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

<http://www.lamar.edu/disability-resource-center/>

Incomplete Grades: The grade of "I" may be given when any requirement of the course, including the final examination, is not completed. Arrangements to complete deficiencies in a course should be made with the instructor prior to the end of the semester or term. Incomplete work must be finished during the next long semester or the Records Office will change the "I" to the grade of "F." While the extension may be granted by the instructor with the approval of his/her Department Chair and Academic Dean, once the "I" is changed to an "F" it cannot be changed back to an "I." In this case, either a "change of grade" procedure must be initiated or the course must then be repeated if credit is desired. The instructor may record the grade of "F" for a student who is absent from the final examinations and is not passing the course.

Campus Closure: In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to a hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to login to Lamar University's website's homepage for instructions about continuing courses remotely. <http://lamar.edu>

Emergency Procedures: Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at:

<http://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html>

Following are procedures for the first two:

Severe Weather:

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.
- Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence/Active Shooter:

- **CALL** - 8-3-1-1 from a campus phone (880-8311 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 9-1-1 from either a campus phone or cell phone will contact Beaumont City Police Dispatch rather than University Police.
- **AVOID**- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- **DENY**- Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.
- **DEFEND**- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Course Evaluations: You will have an opportunity to evaluate all aspects of this course in a formal process to be completed online near the end of the term. You will receive an email reminder through your LU account.