



COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN

**College Algebra
Math 1314.37**

Peter Blaskiewicz

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.
NOTE: This is a Blended/Hybrid course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

Course Description:

In-depth study and application 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. Semester Hours 3 (3 Lecture). Graphing Calculator Required

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

TSI Math score of 350 or higher, or Math 0311, or consent of division chair.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

MyMathLab (*MML*) will be used extensively for posting course notes, assignments, grades, testing, and other communications. Students are expected to check their *MML* and MCC email accounts often.

You will need MyMathLab access that lasts at least through the second week of December.

***** Note about this hybrid/blended version of the class *****

Many/most of our class sessions will be held in Zoom. They will be at the announced regular class time each week, TTh, from 9:35 till 10:55 a.m. The URL with the Meeting ID will be posted in this course's Brightspace shell. I strongly encourage you to attend and be an interactive class, for several reasons. For one thing, it will help make the material more immediate and relevant, and you can get your questions resolved right away if you are there 'as it happens.' Also, I will be able to tailor the lessons to your level of understanding if I have an audience to 'read.'

The Zoom sessions will be recorded, and links to each video will be posted in Brightspace soon after the class meeting is over (hopefully within 15 minutes or so, but in any case by mid-afternoon). If you miss a class meeting, it is expected that you will watch the video later that day and try your hand at the homework assignment, so that you are ready for the next lesson and don't get behind. (The material does build on itself.)

In Zoom class meetings, please attend with your microphone and webcam. Your active participation in those meetings is expected, just as they would be in a face-to-face class meeting.

I will be available for individual Zoom chat sessions / 'office hour' by arrangement, especially if you cannot come to one of the regular class sessions. I request that you first watch the video over the missed class, so that we are not reinventing the wheel. The best way to arrange a Zoom meeting outside my regular office hour is by emailing me with a suggestion of a time or two that would work for you; if you call me, a voice message would go to my email box anyway.

Instructor Information:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Instructor Name: | Peter Blaskiewicz |
| MCC E-mail: | pblaskiewicz@mclennan.edu |
| Office Phone Number: | (254) 299-8869 |
| Office Location: | MATH 213 |
| Office/Teacher Conference Hours: | MW 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.; TTh 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.; other times by arrangement |

Other Instruction Information:

Required Text & Materials:

Required: MyMathLab website access

Required: graphing calculator – TI-84 or TI83 regular, Plus, or Silver Edition

Optional: *College Algebra with modeling and visualization* (6th edition) by Gary Rockswold (2018 Pearson)

ISBN-10: 0134418042 | ISBN-13: 9780134418049

(Note: The entire textbook is available electronically inside MyMathLab.)

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found [here](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf) (https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

*** [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)**
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with her/his students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails.

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward the emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Lecture online using Zoom with student participation in example problems; homework submitted online through MyMathLab; tests and a final exam in MyMathLab.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate and apply knowledge of properties of functions, including domain and range, operations, compositions, and inverses.
- Recognize and apply polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions and solve related equations.
- Apply graphing techniques.
- Evaluate all roots of higher degree polynomial and rational functions.
- Recognize, solve and apply systems of linear equations using matrices.
- Critical Thinking: Students used inductive and deductive reasoning, explore problems using logical process of inquiry, analysis evaluation and synthesis. Assessment will use discussion, independent practice, collaborative experience, instructional technology. Use of departmental test bank and CAAP test.
- Communications: Students turn in written assignment involving topics related to College Algebra or other mathematics. They then share their result with their instructor and/or colleagues in class via written, oral, and/or visual methods. Assessment will use at least one of the following: board work, class time explanation, case study presentation, poster board presentation, or small group presentation. Evaluation process will use departmental rubric for communication assessment.
- Empirical/Quantitative: Students work on various mathematical problem solving skills throughout the course. The course focuses on the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts as presented in application problems and/or problem skill sets in which students demonstrate their ability to reach informed conclusions using mathematical process. Assessment will include discussion, independent practice, collaborative experience, or instructional technology to include questions from a departmental test bank and the CAAP test.
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Course Outline or Schedule:

The schedule is subject to change. Should a change become necessary, students will be notified about changes verbally, during class. In the event school is closed for weather or any other unscheduled reason on the day a test is scheduled, the test will be given during the next class meeting.

| Week (Dates) | Section | Topic |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 (Aug 24-30) | 1.1 – 1.4 | Numbers, Data, and Problem Solving; Visualizing and Graphing Data; Functions and their Representations; Types of Functions and Their Rates of Change |
| 2 (Aug 31-Sept 6) | 2.1 – 2.3 | Equations of Lines; Linear Equations; Linear Inequalities |
| 3 (Sept 7-13) | 2.4 – 2.5 | More Modeling with Functions; Absolute Value Equations and Inequalities |
| 4 (Sept 14-20) | | Test 1 (Chapters 1 and 2) |
| 5 (Sept 21-27) | 3.1 – 3.4 | Quadratic Functions and Models; Quadratic Equations and Problem Solving; Complex Numbers; Quadratic Inequalities More Nonlinear Functions and Their Graphs |
| 6 (Sept 28-Oct 4) | 3.5 | Transformations of Graphs; Test 2 (Chapter 3) |
| 7 (Oct 5-11) | 4.1 – 4.4 | More Nonlinear Functions and Their Graphs; Polynomial Functions and Models; Division of Polynomials; Real Zeros of Polynomials |
| 8 (Oct 12-18) | 4.5 | The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra; Test 3 (Chapter 4.1 – 4.5) |
| 9 (Oct 19-25) | 4.6 – 4.7 | Rational Functions and Models; More Equations and Inequalities |
| 10 (Oct 26-Nov 1) | 4.8 | Radical Equations and Power Functions; Test 4 (Chapter 4.6 – 4.8) |
| 11 (Nov 2-8) | 5.1 – 5.3 | Combining Functions; Inverse Functions and Their Representations; Exponential Functions and Models |
| 12 (Nov 9-15) | 5.4 – 5.6 | Logarithmic Functions and Models; Properties of Logarithms; Exponential and Logarithmic Equations |
| 13 (Nov 16-22) | 5.7 6.1 – 6.4 | Constructing Nonlinear Models; Functions and Systems of Equations in Two Variables; Systems of Inequalities in Two Variables; Systems of Linear Equations in Three Variables; Solutions to Linear Systems Using Matrices |
| 14 (Nov 23-29) | | Test 5 (Chapter 5) |
| 15 (Nov 30-Dec 6) | 6.5 – 6.7 | Properties and Applications of Matrices; Inverses of Matrices; Determinants; Review |
| 16 (Dec 8) | | Final Exam -- cumulative |

Course Grading Information:

Your course grade will be based on homework, chapter tests, and a cumulative exam. The relative weights of each of these factors is as follows:

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|--|-----|
| Homework | 20% |
| Tests (projected 5@ 12%; if other, the weights will total 60%) | 60% |
| Final Exam | 15% |
| Active Participation | 5% |

Homework will be assigned and worked online using MyMathLab (<http://www.mymathlab.com/>). The deadline for each set of homework will be the scheduled time of the test over the sections covered by the homework. Exception: The homework over the prerequisites for College Algebra is due on September 8.

We will be covering chapters 1 - 6 of the text. There will be a test over each chapter or couple of chapters. If you must miss one test for one of the reasons given in MCC's General Catalog, and you have provided a documented excuse for doing so, the exam will also count as your make-up test for that chapter. If it is necessary for you to miss more than one test, you should discuss the situation with me. Unexcused absences from tests will not be made up.

Some of our class time will be spent on working problems together. You will be graded on your class participation, whether answer or asking questions, or discussing the topics. When we are meeting in Zoom, you should be ready with your microphone, or type your answers or questions in the chat window. In order to be able to earn a decent score on this portion of your course grade, it is imperative that you participate actively in class. At the end of the semester, if you are simply a name on the class roster to me, you will not have earned any participation credit.

If pop quizzes are given, their average will count as an additional major test.

For any tests given online, you will be given instructions in class for submitting your 'scratch paper,' which is to be done within just a few minutes of finishing the online test.

NOTE: In order **to take a test**, each of the **homework** sets covered on the test **must be completed with a grade of at least 80%**. Otherwise MyMathLab will not allow you to open the test. Deadlines for tests will not be extended for those who can't access the test due to unfinished homework.

The final exam will be cumulative. It is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, at 9:35 a.m. Please plan accordingly. Your grade on the final may also count in place of your one lowest test grade (or one absence on a test), if that is to your advantage.

The letter grade received in this course will be based on the customary 90-80-70-60 scale.

Tentative Schedule:

The following dates are tentatively scheduled as our testing dates.

Test 1 (Chapters 1 and 2) – week of September 14-20

Test 2 (Chapter 3) – week of Sept 28-October 4

Test 3 (Chapter 4.1 – 4.5) – week of October 12-18

Test 4 (Chapter 4.6 – 4.8) – week of October 26-November 1

Test 5 (Chapter 5) – week of November 23-29

Our pace will generally be to cover about three or four sections per week. Please plan accordingly in preparing for class. In those rare, rare instances when you must be absent, use this as a guideline to know about how much material you would need to make up.

In the event that the school closes for illness, weather, or other unscheduled situations, be prepared the next class period to do whatever was planned for the class period that was canceled.

This course will use a variety of internal and external assessments. A faculty-developed comprehensive final exam will assess the core objectives of critical thinking and empirical/quantitative analysis. These core objectives will also be assessed using parts of a standardized test (CAAP). A faculty designed rubric will be used to assess communication skills as well. Review of such items such as GPA, retention levels, and success in following course may be used to evaluate the effectiveness of student learning.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Homework over a unit (chapter or group of chapters) is due the day of the test over those chapters. Since one of the primary purposes of the homework is to prepare you for the test, late written homework will not be accepted, and late online homework will be penalized 2% of the credit on the problems submitted late per day that it is late. Exception: The homework over prerequisites for College Algebra is due by September 8. There is a 5% penalty per day late for these five assignments, and they cannot be worked after the first test.

Your attendance will be based on any scheduled classroom meetings, your activity in MyMathLab and participation in Zoom class sessions, or ‘office hour meetings’ with the instructor. If two consecutive weeks, or else four individual weeks, elapse with no activity from a student, including in MyMathLab, that will be taken as an indication that the student does not intend to pursue the course to completion, and the student will be dropped from the course for non-attendance. If a situation arises that requires you to be inactive for more than just a few days, please contact the instructor and discuss the situation, so that you are not otherwise dropped for non-attendance.

If you miss taking one chapter test during its announced window, the grade on the final exam can count to replace that missing test grade. (It will also count as the final.) If you have missed more than one test, only one of those missing grades can be replaced by the final. If you miss the final, the course grade will be calculated with a 0 in its place. (Please do not miss the final!)

If you are absent from 25% of the scheduled class meetings by the deadline for student-initiated drops (October 26), you will be dropped from the class. If this limit is reached after that date, you will be kept on the roll, and the grade that you earn for the semester is the grade you will receive.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor. Students should demonstrate an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity. For more details of College Conduct Policy, see the [Highlander Student Guide](#)

Students are expected to be courteous and respectful of their classmates and of instructors at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, the following.

Whether we meet in Zoom or in a classroom:

- Familiarize yourself with Zoom's features
- Please do participate in the class meetings. It's fine to have your mic on and ready for interaction, but mute yourself if the dog or children or other background noise would disrupt us.
- Please use your webcam if you have one. Let me, as well as your fellow classmates, know who is in this course with us. But be mindful of your surroundings when your webcam is on. If necessary or desirable, use a non-distracting virtual background; Zoom provides that option.
- Dress appropriately for class.
- Once the lecture gets going, stick to the topic at hand. Avoid doing other tasks, checking email, being on the phone, or the like.
- Do not use coarse or foul or offensive language, nor offensive or questionable imagery. Violation of this would be grounds for disciplinary action, including (but not limited to) being dropped from the course.
- Remember that the session is being recorded.

For any class meetings on campus, the following conduct is also required:

- Face coverings **must** be worn at all times in the classroom and in all buildings (from the time you leave your vehicle till you get back in it). Both your mouth and your nose must be covered or shielded (mask, bandana, face shield). If you come without a mask or approved face covering, you will be required to leave right away.
- If you are at all sick, or think you might be, **stay home**. (The lessons will be recorded and posted in Brightspace; catch up there.) If you feel like you are coming down with something while on campus, please leave right away if you can safely do so, or else go to one of the designated quarantine rooms on campus until arrangements can be to get you home.

*** [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](#)**

(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Studying together on out-of-class homework or projects is encouraged, but at no time should work belonging to one student be in the possession of another student. Likewise, students are not to engage in cheating in any form during or in preparation for tests or the final exam. All students involved in a cheating incident, whether in providing or receiving assistance, will receive grades of 0 for that assignment, be reported to Student Development, and find their names placed in the MCC database for cheating incidents. If there is a second incident, all students involved will be given grades of F for the course and listed as repeat offenders in the database.

*** [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)**

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students, and each instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course, including online and hybrid courses. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades.

Accommodations/ADA Statement

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

*** [Click Here for more information about Title IX](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix)**
(www.mclennan.edu/titleix)

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence.

** You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*