



**Course Syllabus: Math 1314.08E – College Algebra Fall 2024 (MW)  
Date: Aug. 26 to Dec. 13, 2024**


**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Kwaku Owusu-Ansah **Office Location:** Bin 324  
**Office Hours:** Mon & Wed 10am-11:30am , Tue & Thur 1:30pm-3:00pm  
**University Email Address:** kwaku.owusu-ansah@tamuc.edu  
**Office Phone:** 903-886-5959 **Office Fax:** 903-886-5945  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email  
**Communication Response Time:** Within 24 hours M-F, 48 hours over weekends or holidays

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Material Required:** **MyLab (Online Homework) access through D2L** for College Algebra, 8th Edition by Robert F. Blitzer is required. MyLab is integrated into your MyLeo (D2L) account once you are enrolled in Math1314. **There is NO NEED to purchase an access code on your own, as it is being directly charged to your account through a materials fee in your tuition and fees.**

**To access your lessons and online homework, please log on to MyLeo from university homepage.**

Log on MyLeo and click on the “Apps” tab on top menu and access “MyLeo Online (D2L Brightspace)” app. After that, click on the grid that looks like this  on the next screen. Select Math 1314 from the list of courses that you are taking. Then click on the tab “Content” on the top left corner of the screen. Your homework is under “MyLab Math Student Links”. You can select “All Assignments” for HW or “eBook” link for your online textbook. After clicking on the link “All Assignments”, you will see a list of HW that are opened for you to do.

**\*\*Please note: Students should NOT opt-out MyLab homework direct access if they want to save money for course materials. Purchasing MyLab HW access on your own will cost about double the price compares to the direct access MyLab price that was negotiated by the university. \*\*** If for some reason you chose to opt-out MyLab when enrolling to this class, you will need to speak with your instructor and/or the course coordinator about purchasing the access to the online homework on your own, so we can add you back to the course through the help with the bookstore and the Publisher.

In addition, please get a **Binder** to keep and organize all notes and course materials. A Texas Instruments (TI-83 or TI-83 Plus) graphing **calculator** for this course is highly recommended. All exams must be completed in pencil. Please start your online homework the first day of the course to prevent a loss in points for your grades.

**Printed Textbook (Optional):** The printed textbook, College Algebra, 8th Edition by Robert F. Blitzer (ISBN-13: 9780136922148) is optional because the E-Text can be accessed through MyLab on D2L. Portions of Chapters 1-8 in the textbook will be discussed.

**Course Description**

This course covers an in-depth study and applications of quadratics, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations. Additional topics such as arithmetic and geometric progressions; sequences and series; and matrices and determinants are included. In order to take this course, students must meet, or exceed the benchmark determined by the state for the TSI assessment or have one of various TSI exemptions, or be concurrently enrolled in MATH 131 in the co-requisite model.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of properties of functions, which include domain and range, operations, compositions, and inverses.

- 2) Identify, interpret, and solve problems of various types of functions and their graphs, including but not limited to linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
- 3) Apply graphing techniques for various functions.
- 4) Identify and develop basic sequences and series.
- 5) Solve systems of equations with various methods including elimination, substitution, Cramer's rule and matrices.

### Core Objectives:

1. **Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.** This common core objective will be assessed in the departmental projects or exams for all sections of Math 1314.
2. **In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.** This common core objective will be assessed using in-class discussions with common class activities/projects or exams for all sections of Math 1314.
3. **Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data and/or observable facts.** This common core objective will be assessed using in-class discussions with common class activities/projects, or exams for all sections of Math 1314.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Instruction:** Instruction will be delivered in class and on D2L through lectures, demonstration and models, videos, and some group work, based on time available. All turned in work should be completed in pencil, please.

**Attendance & Continual Enrollment:** Attendance will be taken at the beginning each class. Logging into D2L and completing assignments will also be used to determine as part of your class participation. Students need to actively participate in class and/or online to receive credit. **Attendance and participation (in person and/or online) are must to be able to do well in this class.** It is expected that students follow the guidelines set forth by the Class Attendance Policy in the current Undergraduate Catalogue.

If students represent an athletic team for this university, departmental team, scholastic team, choir, or other group and must miss class, notify me in writing with the appropriate documentation within one week of the absence to be counted as excused absent. Arrangements for make-up work will be made at that time.

**\*\*\* All students should be aware that they are NOT allowed to drop this math course, and that they must be continually enrolled in a math course until they have successfully completed their college-level math course (University Policy). \*\*\***

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned every class period. The homework is a must for success in this class. **\*\*\*Students are required to complete homework using MyLab online homework system. \*\*\*** Homework is due a week after the day that is assigned (or before the exam day, whichever comes first). **Please do not wait until the due date to complete your homework to avoid emergency situations or running into technical difficulties.** If a student experiences any technical difficulties with MyLab, be sure to use the online help and technical support from Pearson. If a student continues to have trouble accessing or navigating the software, please contact the instructor for some individual help.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given periodically. Be sure to attend classes, so you don't miss the in-class quizzes. There may also be quizzes given on D2L. Please keep up with their due dates.

**Class Activities/Projects:** Application problems with class discussion over functions, sequences, logarithmic or exponential functions related to course materials will be assigned during the semester. Be sure to attend all classes to participate in the class activities with class discussion.

**Tutoring:** Attending tutoring will be counted as part of your daily grade. Students are required to spend at least 10 hours tutoring this semester. Students can choose to attend tutoring in the Math Skills Center, TRIO, Supplemental Instruction sessions, library walk-in tutoring, university provided online tutoring, and other official tutoring sessions that are offered by the university.

**Exams:** There are three scheduled exams and a required comprehensive final exam. **Face-to-Face testing is required. In general, students will take exams in class with the instructors.** Make-up exam may only be arranged if it is a documented excused absence. Make-up exams will be taken with the instructor or in an approved testing center. All make-up exams need to be taken before the graded exams are returned back to other students.

Partial credit may be given on exams IF all work is neatly shown for determination of the student's mistakes. While taking exams, **CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND STORED OUT OF THE STUDENT'S REACH.** The only electronic device allowed during tests and quizzes is a stand-alone calculator (such as a TI-34, TI-83, TI-84, etc.), and only with the instructor's permission. All exams must be completed in pencil; failure to complete your exam in pencil will result in a reduction of the earned grade by 5 points.

**No make-up exams will be given without prior notice of a university excused absence\*.** We realize that at times throughout the semester, emergency situations may arise that affect a student's performance on an exam or even prevent a student from attending on an exam day. **We can replace the lowest exam grade with the student's grade on the final exam, provided the final exam score is higher.** This provision will only be applied to **ONE** exam, so students should make every effort to be present and well-prepared for all exams.

**A Practice exam and answer key will be available prior to each exam.  
Be sure to take advantage of this valuable resource!!**

\* University Authorized Excuses: 1) Participation in a required/authorized university activity; 2) Verified illness; 3) Death in a student's immediate family; 4) Obligation of a student at legal proceedings in fulfilling responsibility as a citizen; and others determined by individual faculty to be excusable (e.g., elective University activities, etc.)

**Test dates are tentative and are subject to change:  
See Class Schedule on the last page for exam dates.**

**Required Final Exam: The F2F final exam will be a departmental comprehensive exam. It is scheduled on Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, at 3:30 pm.**

#### Grading

<b>Daily</b>		<b>25%</b>
Homework and Practice Questions for Exams on MyLab/MathXL	15%	
Attendance, D2L Daily Work, Notes, Projects, Surveys, & Tutoring	5%	
Quizzes (6 or more quizzes during the semester)	5%	
<b>Exams Average for 3 F2F Exams During Semester</b>		<b>50%</b>
<b>Required F2F Comprehensive Final Exam</b>		<b>25%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale:** Grades will be assigned using the standard scale:

A = 90-100+    B = 80-89.9,    C = 70-79.9    D = 60-69.9    F = 59.9 or below

#### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students need to **check their MyLeo e-mail regularly** for class announcements.

Access to a **computer**, the **internet, MyLeo, D2L**, and **MyLab** will be needed for online homework assignments and daily work.

**A scanner or a cell phone with a free scan app** (CamScanner or Adobe Scan is recommended) that allows you to scan work out steps to a scan pdf file is required.

**Access to a printer** will be helpful if you like to print out class handouts.

The **graphing calculator of TI 83/TI 84** or equivalent will be highly recommended. Calculators other than Texas Instruments calculators may be used but classroom instruction on calculators will be given for TI equipment only. **\*\*Note:** Calculators that solve problems for students, including but not limited to TI-Nspire, TI 89 or higher, Casio Prizm, Casio Touch or higher are **NOT** allowed to be used for this class. **\*\* Students are also required to clear the memory of graphing calculators before and after each exam.**

**Calculator Loan Program:** The Mathematics Department (Bin 305) has set up a calculator loan program to support students. Students can borrow a calculator for a semester with a fee (\$10 to \$15 for TI-83/84). It is on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **MyLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS):**

**D2L in MyLeo:** All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements: LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

### **Access and Navigation in MyLeo/D2L**

**MyLeo Support:** You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into your course in D2L. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus computer lab, etc.

**Communication and Support:** If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

**Technical Support:** If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

**Interaction with Instructor Statement:** It is important that students are actively engaged in class activities. Questions are welcome in the classroom. Students can schedule with the instructor for extra help outside the classroom during office hours.

**Getting Help Outside of Office Hours:** Utilizing the **multimedia library and online help from the MyLab online homework system** is recommended as a valuable resource for students to improve their grades in this class. Also, the free tutoring on campus and online are also highly recommended.

**Student Health Services** are located at Henderson Hall (Corner of Lee St. and Monroe St.). It offers health care to the student body of Texas A&M University – Commerce. It provides primary health care services including treatment of illness, injury, and women’s health. **Tel:** (903) 886-5853.

**University Police Department** is located at Henderson Hall. For Emergency, please call: 911  
For Non-Emergency, please call: 903.886.5868

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Getting Help Outside of Office Hours:**

Free tutoring is available for students who need help with their math courses.

The **Math Skills Center**, located in Binnion 328, is open: Mon & Wed: 10am – 8pm; Tues & Thurs 10am – 6pm; & Fri 10am – 2pm.

The **Academic Success Center** offers tutoring in the library, as well as Supplemental Instruction. Their hours can be found on the university web site. Also, each student has available tutoring hours through the online tutoring service, tutor.com. Additional details can be found here:

<https://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/tutorInfo/default.aspx>

**Online Tutoring:** Each students receive 3 free hours from [www.tutor.com/tamuc](http://www.tutor.com/tamuc). Use your MyLeo Log in and Password to access this. You can contact the instructor if you need additional free tutoring hours.

In addition, **Mach III/TRIO Services**, located in the Halladay Student Services building, Room 300, is available to students who meet certain criteria, such as being a first-generation college student, etc. Contact TRIO at 903-886-5833.

**Academic Integrity:** To ensure fairness and high academic standards, any actions which violate the principles of academic integrity through dishonesty or cheating are given serious consideration. In order to understand what constitutes a violation of academic integrity and the consequences of such behavior, the university’s policies may be reviewed at:  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduate/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>. In particular, awareness of the following definitions is essential in order to know what represents academic dishonesty (pages 6 – 7):

“**Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise. Unauthorized materials may include anything or anyone that gives a student assistance, and has not been specifically approved in advance by the instructor.”

“**Complicity:** Intentionally or knowingly helping, or attempting to help, another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.”

“**Plagiarism:** The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.”

Furthermore, cheating in this course is defined as the following:

- Giving or receiving answers during an exam or quiz.
- Viewing the exam or quiz answers of nearby classmates.
- Having notes/practice work available during quizzes or tests.
- Possession or access to test items before the test is given.
- Deception in getting an excused absence to obtain the undeserved opportunity to make-up work.

- Use of cell phones or text messaging technology during exams or quizzes (**such as iPods, iWatch, etc.**). **IF ONE OF THESE DEVICES IS AVAILABLE, IN ANY WAY, DURING AN EXAM OR QUIZ, THE STUDENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED WITH THE EXAM OR QUIZ AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO PENALTIES ON THEIR GRADE.**
- Improper citations in written works, or using another person's ideas and words as students own without giving proper credit.
- **Any** method, no matter how well rationalized or accepted, which improves a person's grade by any means other than study and skillful performances on exams and/or other assignments.

While majority of students are honest in doing their school work, due to recent cheating events, action must be taken to protect the academic integrity of classrooms. **There is a NO TOLERANCE policy for cheating, and if a student is caught cheating, the event is subject to reporting and placement on the student's academic record. No grade will be received for any assignments for which cheating occur.**

In summary, students found guilty of an act of academic dishonesty in this course will be subject to the disciplinary actions listed in the university policies. This includes several possible penalties depending on the severity and number of the incidents, which will be taken into account when specifying disciplinary actions.

**Classroom Behavior:** Appropriate classroom behavior is required to attend this class. All people will be treated with respect and talking that disrupt the class is not allowed. If disruptions occur during class time, a student will be asked to leave class and will earn a zero on any applicable grades for that class period. Serial disrupters will be asked to withdraw from this class.

**Early Intervention for First Year Students:** Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University's interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. Grades for students in freshmen level classes will be reported to the Registrar's Office at the end of the fifth week of class during the fall and spring semesters. The Registrar's Office will report grades to students, Advising Services, Academic Departments (faculty advisors) and mentors. This procedure will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester. The university, through Advising Services, faculty advisors and mentors, will take steps to assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

**Student Conduct:** \*\*\* "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Rude and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. No electronic devices (except calculators) are allowed during class time. **Cell phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices are to be put away during in-person class time and exams.** \*\*\* The use of vapor/e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco are prohibited inside classrooms and university buildings.

The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/> Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

**TAMUC Attendance:** For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and Procedure [13.99.99.R0.01](#).  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

**ADA Statement, Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If students have a disability requiring an



accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library- Room 162, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148, Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

**Nondiscrimination Notice:** This statement presents the University's commitment to a safe, accepting environment for all students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identification, or gender expression: A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Campus Concealed Carry Statement:** Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health - Counseling Services** The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel).

**AI Use Policy** Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

**Syllabus Change Policy:**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

**\*\*\* Course Tentative Schedule is on the last page of this syllabus. \*\*\***

**Tentative Schedule for Math 1314 MW Schedule (Fall 2024):**

	Date	Events	STUDY:
M	8/26	Intro Syllabus, D2L & MyLab Review I Basic Math: Order of Operations, Solving Linear Equations & Inequalities, (When have time: Review Basic Exponent Rules, & Basic Factoring)	<b>Review Basic Math I</b>
W	8/28	2.1	
M	9/2	<b>Labor Day Holiday (No Class Meeting)</b>	
W	9/4	2.2	
M	9/9	2.3 & 2.4 & Quiz	Quiz
W	9/11	2.5 & 2.6	
M	9/16	2.6 & 2.7 & Quiz	Quiz
W	9/18	Ch. 8 (Arithmetic & Geometric Sequences) & Review II Factoring, Solving Quadratic Equations, Simplify Rational Expressions & 3.1 (When have time: Review Basic Rules of Exponents, Basic Simplify Rational Expressions)	<b>Review Basic Math II</b>
M	9/23	Review for exam 1	<b>Study for Exam 1</b>
W	9/25	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>Study for Exam 1</b>
M	9/30	Review Quadratic Equation (1.5) & Math & 3.1	
W	10/2	3.2	
M	10/7	3.3 & 3.4 & Quiz	Quiz
W	10/9	3.4	
M	10/14	3.5 & Quiz	Quiz
W	10/16	3.5 & 3.6	
M	10/21	Review for exam 2	<b>Study for Exam 2</b>
W	10/23	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>Study for Exam 2</b>
M	10/28	Review III Rules of Exponents & Simplify Rational Functions & 4.1	<b>Review Basic Math II</b>
W	10/30	4.2	
M	11/4	4.3 & 4.4	
W	11/6	4.4 & 4.5 & Quiz	Quiz
M	11/11	5.1 & 5.2 (3x3 required)	
W	11/13	6.5 (Cramer's Rule 2x2 required, and 3x3)	
M	11/18	6.1 and 6.2 (Matrices 2x2 required and 3x3) & Quiz	Quiz
W	11/20	Review for exam 3	<b>Study for Exam 3</b>
M	11/25	<b>EXAM 3</b>	<b>Study for Exam 3</b>
W	11/27	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class Meeting)</b>	
M	12/2	Review for Final Exam	<b>Study for Final</b>
W	12/4	Review for Final Exam	<b>Study for Final</b>
M	12/9	<b>FINAL EXAM, 3:30pm – 5:30pm</b>	<b>NOTE SPECIAL TIME!!</b>

\*\*\* By Remaining Enrolled In This Course, All Students Agree to Abide by the Policies Of This Class, As Stated In The Syllabus \*\*\*