



MATH 3A-54788: COLLEGE ALGEBRA
SPRING 2020

Instructor Information

- Mrs. Kelsey Casteel
- When you need to get in contact with me, please message me through the Canvas messaging system. When you are in Canvas click on the “inbox” tab on the main left hand side menu. If Canvas is down (fingers crossed that never happens), then please email me @ kelsey.casteel@reedleycollege.edu
- Office Hours: Take advantage of office hours! These are designated times I am available to meet with you for whatever you need help with. My office is FEM 1 G (the far corner of the math center). I will be in there on Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 – 9:50 am, Tuesdays 3:00 – 3:50 pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 am. If these times do not work for you, please speak with me or message me and we will find another time to meet. My office phone number is 638-0300 x 3799

Course Information

Welcome to Math 3A, College Algebra! Our section number is 54788. We meet Monday through Thursday from 8:00 – 8:50 am in Classroom Complex I (CCI) room 201.

Course Description

This is a college level course in algebra for majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students will study polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, absolute value, and logarithmic functions; systems of equations; theory of polynomial equations; analytic geometry.

- Advisories: Eligibility for English 1A or 1AH
- Prerequisite(s): Mathematics 103 or equivalent
- Credits: 4

Course Materials

Required: MyLab Access. This will give you access to assignments and an electronic copy of the full textbook. You can use a free temporary 14 day access at first if you wish. You find this option on the purchasing page when you are setting up your MyLab account **through Canvas (you will not set up your account through the external Pearson website. You will access it by clicking on the MyLab and Mastering Link on the left side of our Canvas page.)** The cheapest purchasing option is to use a credit or debit card through the website. You also can purchase a code in the bookstore, but that will be a bit more expensive. We are using *College Algebra* 12th edition by Lial, Hornsby, Schneider, and Daniels.

Required: Calculator. It is up to you which one you want to use, just make sure it is at least scientific, such as a TI 30 XIIS. If you know you will be taking more STEM courses in the future you may want to invest in a graphing calculator, such as a TI-83, TI-84, or TI-89 (TI stands for Texas Instrument). For work during class or at home (but not during an exam), there are FREE online calculators available. I love to use Desmos <https://www.desmos.com/>. There is a free desmos app you can download on your smart phone. Our library checks out calculators for the entire semester for FREE! Go early if you would like to rent one.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze properties of various types of functions.
- Synthesize results from the graphs and/or equations of functions.
- Solve various types of equations and inequalities.
- Apply appropriate techniques to model real world applications.
- Use formulas to find sums of finite and infinite series.

Course Objectives

In the process of completing this course, students will:

- Analyze and investigate properties of functions, including linear, polynomial, absolute value, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions;
- Synthesize results from the graphs and/or equations of functions, including linear, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions;
- Apply transformations to the graphs of functions;
- Recognize the relationship between functions and their inverses graphically and algebraically;
- Solve and apply rational, linear, polynomial, radical, absolute value, exponential, and logarithmic equations and solve linear, nonlinear, and absolute value inequalities;
- Solve systems of equations and inequalities;
- Apply techniques for finding zeros of polynomials and roots of equations;
- Apply functions and other algebraic techniques to model real world applications;
- Analyze conics algebraically and graphically; and
- Use formulas to find sums of finite and infinite series.

Grading

You can see your assignment grades and overall class grade anytime in Canvas. Your overall class percentage is broken down as follows:

- Exams and Final Exam: 70%
- Assignments and In Class Work: 30%

As an example of the breakdown, let's say at the end of the semester you have an overall score of 78% for exams and 93% for assignments and in class work. Your overall class percentage would be

$$(0.70)(78)+(0.30)(93) = 54.6+27.9 = 82.5\%$$

Letter grades are assigned based on the following intervals:

89.5 - 100% A

79.5 - 89.4% B

69.5 - 79.4% C

59.5 - 69.4% D

0 - 59.4% F

Assignments/In Class Work

The majority of homework assignments will be done through the online MyLab program. You will occasionally have paper and pencil assignments as well and tasks done in class for credit.

Late Work

I know that the semester can at times be overwhelming and we get behind in our work. Once an assignment in MyLab is past the due date and time, it is considered late. You can still work on these assignments and earn 60% of the credit. Only problems scored after the due date will have the penalty reduction. You can work on late work all the way through the end of the semester.

Extra Credit

There are no extra credit opportunities available for this class.

Exams

A practice exam will be available in MyLab for each exam so that you know the types of problems to review. For each exam, you can use a standard size paper (8.5 in by 11 in) of whatever notes you like. Exams cannot be taken late for any reason. You can take an exam early if you know ahead of time that you will be absent. In the event that a student does miss an exam, the final exam will go in for that missing score.

Final Exam

There will be a cumulative, mandatory final exam at the end of the semester. Because there are no make-up exams, if a student misses an exam then the final exam score will go in for that grade. If a student has not missed any exams, then the final exam will go in for the lowest exam given the final score is higher. As an example, say your exam scores are 80%, 65%, 75%, 83%, and 90% and you receive an 85% on the final. Then in the gradebook, you would have an 85% for the final, and the Exam 2 that used to be 65% would be 85%.

Technology

As a student of SCCC, you are given a free student email account. Make sure you are able to login to this account and check it on a regular basis (at least once a day). You can also set it up through your smart phone if you have one and set up email alerts so that you never miss anything important. Your student email is the official way your instructors communicate with you outside of class. In addition to your email account, you also have a Canvas account set up by the college. I will use Canvas to post homework, make announcements, keep track of grades, ect. Make sure you have access and sign in on a regular basis.

Resources

- Your instructor
- Your fellow students
- FREE tutoring in the Math Center in the FEM building, open 8-4 Monday through Thursday and 8-12 on Fridays. The Math Center predominately works on a drop in basis unless you are enrolled in math 273. If you are, you will have more of a regular schedule with the embedded tutor.
- FREE tutoring in the Learning Center in the Library, open 8-5 Monday through Thursday and 8-4 on Fridays.
- Online resources: Khan Academy, YouTube, any other websites you find that are helpful (please share with the rest of the class).

Drop Policies

If you wish to drop the class, it is your responsibility to make sure you drop it officially in **Webadvisor**. You may be dropped by the instructor if any of the following happen:

- Missing eight days of class within the first nine weeks of the semester. If there is a special circumstance causing you to be absent that is out of your control, please speak with the instructor.
- Not having full, paid access to MyLab by Friday January 31st at 11:59 pm.

College Policies

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (ie: Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the American With Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act please contact me as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty

“Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences” (Reedley College Catalog pg 49).

Cheating

“Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another’s work, supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely” (Reedley College Catalog pg 49).

Student Rights

“Student rights are protected by federal and state laws, and by policies established by the trustees of the State Center Community College District. It is therefore essential for the protection of students’ rights that procedures be established and followed which would identify violations of student conduct standards and the resolutions of such violations. Students have a right to an oral or written notice (reasons for disciplinary action), an opportunity for a review, and a decision given orally or in writing. For more information contact the Vice President of Student Services’ office. (Board Policy 5520, Administrative Regulation 5520)” (Reedley College Catalog pg 49).

Important Dates

- Monday January 13th : Start of the semester
- Monday January 20th : Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed (no classes, campus closed)
- Friday January 24th : Last day to drop a full term (18 week) course for a full refund
- Sunday February 2nd : Last day to drop the class and NOT receive a W (withdraw). It is as if you were never in the class.
- Friday February 14th: Lincoln Day observance (no classes held, campus closed)
- Monday February 17th : Washington Day observance (no classes held, campus closed)
- Friday March 13th: Last day to drop a full term class and get a W (letter grades assigned after this date)
- April 6 – 10 : Spring recess and Good Friday Observance (no classes, campus closed on the 10th)
- May 18-22: Final exam week. **The final for our course is Monday May 18th from 8:00 – 9:50 am in our normal room. Any late work is also due this day at 11:59 pm.**

*** This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor ***