



Department of Mathematics

**Math 0315.037I3**  
**Foundations of Algebra**  
**Spring 2025**  
**Internet Class**

**Instructor: Danielle Smith**  
**E-mail: dsmith70@com.edu**  
**Telephone: 409-933-8244**  
**Office: N/A**

**Student hours:** Mondays 3:00-4:00pm online in D2L virtual classroom

**1. Communicating with your instructor:**

**All electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email.** Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. I will make every effort to respond to your email within 24 hours of receiving it.

**2. Required Textbook/Materials**

Intermediate Algebra, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, by Tobey, Slater, Blair and Crawford by Pearson. The e-text is provided with MyLab Math. Students will need a computer and internet service to gain access to the online assignments on MyLab Math. Students will also need to have a document scanning app on their phone to submit exam work.

**3. Course Description**

This course is designed to develop skills and understanding in the following areas: relations and functions, inequalities, algebraic expressions and equations (absolute value, polynomial, radical, rational), with a special emphasis on linear and quadratic expressions and equations. This course does not transfer.

**4. Course Requirements**

**Homework Assignments (10%)** - There is assigned homework for each section to be completed online using MyLab Math through D2L Brightspace. Homework pertaining to sections covered each week will be due by 11:59pm on the date indicated on the course outline (see page 4; homework is usually due on Thursday). I strongly recommend you create a schedule for yourself for the sections each week and stick to it, ***do not wait until the due date to start the assignments***. You should do the assignments as soon as possible after reading the appropriate section in the textbook and watching the associated lecture video(s). Although the homework is online, you should write out your work and put it in your notebook so you can study from it later. Many of the homework questions are subject to reappear on quizzes and tests.

**Quizzes (10%)** - Four quizzes, which relate to the student learning outcomes, will be taken on MyMathLab. You can retake each quiz just once to improve your score; the higher score will be the one that counts. The quizzes must be taken in one sitting, they are timed, and the student gets only one attempt to answer each question. Be sure to label and write out your work/solutions for all quizzes in a neat and organized manner, *you may be asked to submit photos of your work in D2L for credit*. The work from these problems will also come in handy to review as you prepare for subsequent tests and the final exam.

**Exams (80%)**: There are four exams which cover the chapters in the textbook and a comprehensive final exam. Tests must be completed within the given window stated on the course outline (page 4) and the student has two hours to take each exam once they start. **There are no retakes on any of the exams.** Be sure to label and write out your work/solutions for all exams in a neat and organized manner, ***you will be required to submit photos of your work in D2L for credit.*** The work from these problems will also come in handy to review as you prepare for the final exam. The final exam may be used to replace the lowest test score if it benefits the student.

#### 5. **Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy**

As a general rule, there are no make-up exams. Students must make every effort to complete the exam within the window given on the course outline (page 4). Extensions for exams will only be considered under extenuating circumstances and are limited to one per semester. If you need to miss an exam, you must **petition the instructor prior to the exam window and have a legitimate reason.** Technological difficulties are not a sufficient reason to extend an exam. If you do not reach out prior to the exam, an extension will not be granted. All missed chapter tests will be assigned a zero, and the zero(s) will be used to calculate final grade in course. The final exam may be used to replace the lowest test score if it benefits the student.

Due dates for homework WILL NOT be extended (see Course Outline on page 4 for due dates). Homework worked after the due date will receive a 20% deduction on all problems worked after the due date. You'll be able to work on past due homework and quizzes until the corresponding exam date.

There is no guaranteed extra-credit for this course. Extra credit may be offered at the professor's discretion for completion of assignments or activities outside of the normal scope of the course (such as designated discussion boards or video projects).

#### 6. **Academic Dishonesty**

College of the Mainland is committed to a high standard of academic integrity. All students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Incidents of academic and scholastic dishonesty (including cheating, plagiarism, and collusion) will be dealt with in a manner that is consistent with College Policy and the Student Handbook. Any student found to have been academically dishonest on an assignment, quiz or exam **will receive a zero for that assignment, quiz or exam** and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action. Please read the sections on *Standards of Student Conduct and Discipline and Penalties* in the online Student Handbook.

## 7. **Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula**

The course grade will be determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Final Avg} = 64\% \text{Chapter Exam Avg} + 16\% \text{Final Exam} + 10\% \text{Homework Avg} + 10\% \text{Quiz Avg}$$

(The Final Exam score will replace the lowest Chapter Exam Score when it is larger)

### **Grading Scale:**

Grade A: Final Average in [89.5, 100]

Grade B: Final Average in [79.5, 89.5)

Grade C: Final Average in [69.5, 79.5)

Grade D: Final Average in [59.5, 69.5)

Grade F: Final Average in [0, 59.5)

## 8. **Student Learner Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of MATH 0315, students will:

1. Define, represent and perform operations on real and complex numbers.
2. Recognize, understand and analyze features of a function.
3. Recognize and use algebraic (field) properties, concepts, procedures (including factoring), and algorithms to combine, transform, and evaluate absolute value, polynomial, radical, and rational expressions.
4. Identify and solve absolute value and linear inequalities.
5. Model, interpret and justify mathematical ideas and concepts using multiple representations.
6. Connect and use multiple strands of mathematics in situations and problems, as well as to the study of other disciplines.

## 9. **Concerns about the Instructor**

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact the Department Chair for Math & Computer Science, Leslie Richardson at [lrichardson@com.edu](mailto:lrichardson@com.edu), 409-933-8329.

## 10. **Attendance Policy:**

Students at COM are expected to attend and participate in every session of all classes for which they are registered. Regular attendance & participation is a critical component to being successful in courses. Since this is an internet course, attendance/participation is based on your progress in MML. If you stop making progress, your last date of attendance will be the last date that you logged into MML and made meaningful progress.

## 9. Course Outline

This is a tentative schedule. As the semester progresses, adjustments may be needed.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Section, Topic, Due Date</b>
1 (1/13)	M - Orientation Assignment Due 1/16 1.5 Operations with Variables, Grouping Symbols Due 1/16 1.6 Evaluating Expressions and Formulas Due 1/16 2.1 First Degree Equations with one unknown Due 1/16
2 (1/20)	M – Holiday 2.3 Absolute Value Equations Due 1/23 2.4 Solving Word Problems Due 1/23 <b>Quiz A: Sections 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4 Due 1/23</b>
3 (1/27)	2.6 Linear Inequalities Due 1/30 2.8 Absolute Value Inequalities Due 1/30 Review Exam 1 Due 1/30 <b>Exam 1 Sections 1.5, 1.6, Chapter 2 - OPEN 1/27-1/30</b>
4 (2/03)	3.1 Graphing Linear Equations Due 2/06 3.2 Slope of a Line Due 2/06 3.3 Equations of a Line Due 2/06 <b>Quiz B: Sections 3.1-3.3 Due 2/06</b>
5 (2/10)	4.1 Systems of Linear Equations Due 2/13 4.3 Applications of Systems of Equations Due 2/13 Review Exam 2: Chapters 3, 4 Due 2/13 <b>Exam 2: Chapters 3, 4 OPEN 2/10-2/13</b>
6 (2/17)	1.4 Rules of Exponents (exclude scientific notation) Due 2/20 5.1 Polynomials: adding, Subtracting, Multiplying Due 2/20 5.3 Synthetic Division Due 2/20
7 (2/24)	5.4 GCF, Factor by Grouping Due 2/27 <b>Quiz C: Sections 1.4, 5.1, 5.3 Due 2/27</b> 5.5 Factoring Trinomials Due 2/27
8 (3/03)	5.6 Special Case Factoring Due 3/06 5.7 Mixed Factoring (assignment only, no lecture video) Due 3/06 5.8 Solving Equations by Factoring Due 3/06
9 (3/10)	Review Exam 3: Chapter 5 Due 3/13 <b>Exam 3: Chapter 5 OPEN 3/10-3/13</b>
(3/17)	~~ Spring Break ~~
10 (3/24)	6.1 Rational Expressions, Simplifying, Multiplying and Dividing Due 3/27 6.2 Adding, Subtracting Rational Expressions Due 3/27
11 (3/31)	7.2 Radical Expressions and Functions (square roots only) Due 4/03 7.3 Simplifying, Adding and Subtracting Radicals Due 4/03
12 (4/07)	7.4 Multiplying, Dividing Radicals Due 4/10 <b>Quiz D: Sections 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 Due 4/10</b> 7.6 Complex Numbers (Exclude division) Due 4/10
13 (4/14)	Review Exam 4: Chapters 6, 7 Due 4/17 <b>Exam 4: Chapters 6, 7 OPEN 4/14-4/17</b> F – Holiday
14 (4/21) *W-Day 4/21	Final Exam Review Due 4/27
15 (4/28)	<b>Final Exam OPEN 4/28-/5/1</b>

## **Institutional Policies and Guidelines**

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**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2024-2025\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is February 26. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 21. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is April 30.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

### **Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

### **Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.