Math 1314: College Algebra
Course Syllabus

This syllabus is current and accurate as of its posting date, but it will not be updated. For the most complete and up-to-date course information, contact the instructor.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Simon Pfeil
Office: MCS 219C
Office Hours:
  Monday: 9am-10am, 12pm-1pm;
  Tuesday: 9am-9:30am, 11am-12:30pm;
  Wednesday: 9am-10am, 11am-1pm;
  Thursday: 9am-9:30am, 11am-12:30pm;
  Friday: 9am-10am;
  and by appointment.
E-mail: simon.pfeil@angelo.edu
Phone: 325-486-5436

Course Information

Course Description: Exponents and radicals, logarithms, factoring, algebraic quotients, systems of equations, inequalities, absolute value, complex numbers, quadratic equations, binomial theorem, progressions, theory of equations, and determinants.

Textbook: College Algebra, 12th Edition, by Gustafson and Hughes. The electronic supplement WebAssign will also be required.

Webassign: The electronic resource WebAssign will be required. To access WebAssign, click the “Access WebAssign” link in Blackboard.

Course Content: The following chapters including the particular sections listed are covered.

0  A Review of Basic Algebra: Real Numbers; Integer Exponents and Scientific Notation; Rational Exponents and Radicals; Polynomials; Factoring Polynomials; Rational Expressions.
1  Equations and Inequalities: Linear Equations and Rational Equations; Applications of Linear Equations; Complex Numbers; Quadratic Equations; Applications of Quadratic Equations; Other Types of Equations; Inequalities; Absolute Value.
2  Functions and Graphs: Functions and Function Notation; The Rectangular Coordinate System and Graphing Lines; Linear Functions and Slope; Writing and Graphing Equations of Lines.
3  Functions: Graphs of Functions.
4  Polynomial and Rational Functions: Quadratic Functions.
Course Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance on tests, homework, quizzes, and a final exam. Final grades will be based on a standard 10-point grading scale.

Exams (81%): There will be 4 in-class tests during the semester and a comprehensive final exam. Each test will count 14% of your final grade, and the final exam will count 25%. If it helps your final average, and you take each test, then your final exam grade will replace your lowest test grade. If you miss up to one test for any reason, then that test grade will be replaced with the final exam grade. Any other missed tests will result in a grade of zero.

IMPORTANT: Tests in this class will take place from 5-7pm on February 11, March 4, April 1, and April 22. The final exam will take place on May 6 at 10:30am.

Homework (15%): Homework will be assigned almost every day using WebAssign, and will count 15% of your final grade. See above for how to sign in. All late homework - no matter the reason - will incur a 30% penalty. Your lowest two homework grades will be dropped.

Quizzes (4%): Quizzes will be short in-class assignments given throughout the semester, and will count 4% of your final grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Other Information

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days:
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Incomplete Grade Policy:
It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

Student Disability Services:
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.
The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting:
Ms. Dallas A. Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
325-942-2047  
Dallas.Swafford@angelo.edu  
Houston Harte University Center

**Title IX:**  
Angelo State University is committed to the safety and security of all students. If you or someone you know experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or discrimination, you may contact ASU’s Title IX Coordinator:

Michelle Nicole Boone, J.D.  
Director of Title IX Compliance  
325-486-6357  
Michelle.Boone@angelo.edu  
Mayer Administration Building  

**Academic Integrity**  
Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.  
The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the Statement of **Academic Integrity**

**Copyright Policy**  
Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

**Plagiarism**  
Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s **Academic Integrity policy** in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.  
In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

**General Policies Related to This Course**  
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:
Student Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate factual knowledge including the mathematical notation and terminology used in this course. Students will read, interpret, and use the vocabulary, symbolism, and basic definitions used in college algebra including the real numbers, exponents, radicals, polynomials, factoring, functions, equations, inequalities.

Students will describe the fundamental principles including the laws and theorems arising from the concepts covered in this course. Students will identify and apply the laws and formulas that result directly from the definitions; for example, the quadratic formula, rules of exponents, and properties of logarithms.

Students will apply course material along with techniques and procedures covered in this course to solve problems. Students will use the facts, formulas, and techniques learned in this course to simplify algebraic expressions, graph functions, and solve inequalities, equations and systems of equations.

Students will develop specific skills, competencies, and thought processes sufficient to support further study or work in this field or related fields. Students will acquire a level of proficiency in the fundamental concepts and applications necessary for further study in academic areas requiring college algebra as a prerequisite, or for work in occupational fields requiring a background in algebra. These fields might include education, business, finance, marketing, computer science, physical sciences, and engineering, as well as mathematics.

Course Schedule

Weekly Schedule
Below is a tentative schedule, but it is likely to change throughout the semester.

Week 1: Sections 0.1 and 0.2
Week 2: Section 0.3
Week 3: Section 0.4
Week 4: Sections 0.5 and 0.6
Week 5: Test 1 and Sections 1.1, 1.2
Week 6: Sections 1.3 and 1.4
Week 7: Sections 1.5 and 1.6
Week 8: Test 2 and Section 1.7
Week 9: Sections 1.8, 2.1, and 2.2
Week 10: Sections 2.3, 2.4, and 3.1
Week 11: Test 3 and Section 4.1
Week 12: Sections 5.1, 5.3, and 5.5
Week 13: Section 5.6  
Week 14: Test 5 and Section 6.1  
Week 15: Section 6.6  
Week 16: Final Exam (Monday, May 6: 10:30am-12:30pm)

**Important Dates**

January 14: First day of class  
January 21: No Class (MLK Day)  
February 11: Test 1 (5pm-7pm)  
March 4: Test 2 (5pm-7pm)  
March 11 – March 15: No Class (Spring Break)  
March 28: Last day to drop a class  
April 1: Test 3 (5pm-7pm)  
April 22: Test 4 (5pm-7pm)  
May 6: Final Exam (10:30am-12:30pm)

**How to Get Help**

Angelo State University offers many free ways to get help in your classes, especially in math.

1. **Math Lab:** A tutoring lab staffed by undergraduate tutors. This lab has computers and empty tables where you can study or work on homework, and ask questions as needed. You can also just stop by to ask specific questions. No appointment is needed.
   a. Location: 3rd floor of the library, Room C302  
   b. Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm; Friday 9am-Noon; Sunday 4pm-8pm  
   c. Contact: [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/math-lab.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/math-lab.php) or 325-486-6369

2. **Upswing:** An online tutoring service paid for by ASU. Schedule a session, or connect instantly with one-on-one tutors using a virtual whiteboard, audio, and (optionally) video.
   a. Location: [https://angelo.upswing.io/](https://angelo.upswing.io/) and click “New User”  
   b. Hours: 24/7 or by appointment

3. **Office Hours:** I have ten hours every week that are set aside to work with students. These hours are on the first page of this syllabus, and no appointment is necessary during these times. I am also available at other times by appointment. Speak with me after class or email me at simon.pfeil@angelo.edu to set up a time.

4. **Email:** Almost every day, I am available via email at simon.pfeil@angelo.edu. Feel free to email me anytime with questions: I’ll respond as soon as possible.

5. **Private Tutors:** Though not free, the mathematics department also maintains a list of students that are interested in private tutoring. Stop by the math department office for more information.