

**Course Coordinator:** Mr. Joshua Girshner, [jgirshne@uark.edu](mailto:jgirshne@uark.edu)

**Course Description:** This course entails exploration of College Algebra material using a real world application and math modeling approach through the exploration of functions. The focus of the course is to build confidence in problem solving and to increase number sense by using technology and exploratory learning.

**Textbook/Required Materials:**

- *College Algebra* by Robert Blitzer, 6th Edition, Pearson (optional)
- University of Arkansas MyLabsPlus (MLP) Student Access Kit (**You MUST purchase your access code for MLP immediately, so you do not get behind in the course.**)
- TI-84 or below (or similar) calculator. The TI-84 is highly recommended.

**Calculators:**

Each student will need a calculator for in-class work and tests. For exams taken in the testing center you may use your own approved calculator or one supplied by the testing center. **TI-85 or higher calculators, laptops, cell phones, and other mobile devices are NOT acceptable calculators.**

**Grading:**                      \* denotes assignments with a required prerequisite.

Homework	05.0%	<del>In-Class Participation</del>	<del>00.0%</del>
Quizzes*	20.0%	Test 1*	17.5%
<del>Lab Minutes</del>	<del>00.0%</del>	Test 2*	17.5%
Mini Project I	02.5%	Concepts Exam	10.0%
Project II	07.5%	Final Exam	20.0%

Final grades will be the weighted average of the above categories. Letter grades follow a 90/80/70/60 scale. **There is no bonus, no rounding, and no curve in this course.** No considerations will be given to students scoring below a 70% on the final. The grading scale is subject to change at the discretion of the course coordinator.

**Quizzes:** All quizzes will be taken on the MyLabsPlus website. There are a total of 12 lessons in this course with each lesson having 1 associated quiz. There is also a concept quiz due before each exam for a total of 15 online quizzes. You must earn a 90% or better on a lesson homework in order to access its' quiz. Lesson quizzes will remain open throughout the session, with unlimited attempts, and only the highest score (for each) counts toward your grade. **NO Lesson quizzes will be dropped!!** Concept quizzes are open response with **ONE ATTEMPT** each! **ONE** of your concept quizzes (the lowest score) will be dropped at the end of the session.

**Exams:** All tests can be taken in the MRTC Testing Center (CHPN 327) on the University of Arkansas Fayetteville campus. **IF YOU CHOOSE TO TEST IN THE MRTC TESTING CENTER, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH SETTING UP, REGISTERING, OR SCHEDULING ANYTHING WITH B Virtual!** Refer to the Testing Center Guidelines on the Math Department's website <http://mrtc.uark.edu> before taking a proctored exam in the Testing Center. Exams are timed with 10 minutes added to allow for entry of solutions into MLP and an additional 15 minutes added for possible internet issues/slowness. These combine to give a total possible exam time of 75 minutes (Test 1, Test 2) and 100 minutes (Final Exam). Scan the QR code to see a video of the Testing Center.



### **Remote-testing with B Virtual:**

This course will have 3 exams (Test 1/2/Final) proctored using the online proctoring service B Virtual, this means that you will take your exam online with the proctoring service. At a time you select, you will take your exam online under the supervision of a proctor who will verify your ID, and supervise you through your webcam and see your computer screen. Here are the steps you will need to complete to utilize this service:

<http://tips.uark.edu/b-virtual-instructions-for-students/>

### **Pre-Assessment:**

All college algebra students are REQUIRED to take the Pre-Assessment at the beginning of the semester. After you have bought the MLP access code and accessed your MLP course, you will need to complete the Pre-Assessment. The Pre-Assessment will be taken on the computer using your MyLabsPlus account and you will be given 30 minutes to complete this assessment. The Pre-Assessment has NO IMPACT on your grade in the course; it is used for statistical purposes by the university and the state of Arkansas. Please give this your best effort, but don't be concerned if you do poorly!

### **Lab Minutes:**

~~Lab minutes are a required portion of this course. You can earn minutes by swiping your university ID in any of the math labs located on the third floor of Champions Hall. You must earn *at least* 250 lab minutes by October 16th, and *another* 250 by December 1<sup>st</sup> in order to receive full credit for lab minutes.~~

### **Calculator Policy for College Algebra 1203 ONLINE:**

You may use a TI-84 (or below) calculator with the cover removed. All other calculators must be pre-approved by your teacher. Proctors and teachers will NOT be able to help you with calculator operations during tests. YOU must clear the calculator memory BEFORE and AFTER the test.

### **Make-Up Policy:**

Homework on MyLabsPlus may be made up at any time for full credit up until the final day as indicated on the course calendar for your class. MyLabsPlus quizzes and tests will not have any make-up work allowed except for extenuating circumstances. Any requests for test make up will have to be submitted in writing along with any accompanying documents supporting the need for a make-up exam. Special considerations are entirely at the discretion of the instructor of the class.

### **Inclement Weather Policy:**

Class will "meet" regardless of weather conditions. Deadlines WILL NOT be extended due to internet problems or power interruptions resulting from severe weather in your area. Be PROACTIVE, work ahead, and don't wait until the last minute to complete coursework!!

### **Technology Use Policy:**

This course has an online component and you are expected to ensure that you can access all course material on a regular basis either from the university or from home. Additionally, certain technical abilities will be required, such as installing necessary plug-ins, and upload files. **If you have a problem with a personal computer or interrupted network connection, know that you are still responsible for submitting your work on time!**

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed.  
If changes are made, you will be notified of the changes in class or by your university e-mail address.

### **Netiquette Policy:**

Netiquette is online etiquette. It is important that all participants in courses involving an online component be aware of proper online behavior and respect each other.

Use appropriate language for an educational environment:

- Use complete sentences
- Use proper spelling and grammar
- Avoid slang and uncommon abbreviations
- Do not use obscene or threatening language

Remember that the University values diversity and encourages discourse. Be respectful of differences while engaging in online discussions. For more information about Netiquette, see The Core Rules for Netiquette (<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>) by Virginia Shea.

### **Communication:**

I can be contacted through e-mail at any time. I will reply to all emails that are received within 48 hours. Most of the time a response will come much quicker than that, but plan on not hearing from me for 48 hours. **What this means is:** don't email me on test day about a review question expecting to hear back from me that same day! Be PROACTIVE, work ahead, and don't wait until the last minute to get help. You will not be successful in this course if you do everything on the weekends, and ignore algebra for the rest of the week...

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## **Official Master Syllabus for MRTC Courses**

The official Master Syllabus for MRTC courses can be found in MLP or by contacting your instructor directly.

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