

MATH 1284C PRECALCULUS - ONLINE
University of Arkansas, Department of Mathematical Sciences
Syllabus, Spring 2015

Course Objectives

The goal of Precalculus is to prepare you for Calculus 1. Working towards this goal, when you successfully complete this course, you will be able to:

1. Recall and apply basic algebra skills without requiring a review.
2. Recall the definition of a function, basics of functions and their graphs, function operations, and function transformations.
3. Learn the basics of limits to help with the beginning of the calculus course.
4. Recognize various kinds of functions (including polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions), analyze their behavior, and use the properties of these functions to solve equations and application problems.
5. Define trigonometric functions; understand right triangle trigonometry and unit circle trigonometry.
6. Know and apply identities involving the trigonometric functions.
7. Recognize the conic sections and their geometric properties.
8. Be self-disciplined and dependable through daily consistent work.

Instructor

Mrs. Victoria (Tori) Ryburn

E-mail: vryburn@uark.edu, office: SCEN 219. Email is the best form of communication with me. I will be available by email anytime and will respond to emails as quickly as I can, usually within 24 hours. Check the instructor tab on Blackboard for office hours.

Check the Blackboard announcements and your university email account twice a day for important class information. Outages and other problems will also be reported via Twitter at @UarkMRTC. (I do not manage or check this Twitter account, so do not expect to be able to communicate with me via Twitter.)

Materials for the Course

Electronic Textbook and Software: *MYLABSPPLUS (MLP) Student Access Kit*. This kit is **REQUIRED** for the class.

Electronic version of the textbook is included in MyLabsPlus. You may purchase the University of Arkansas MLP access kit from a local bookstore or online when you first access the MLP portion of your class. Textbook: *Precalculus*, Schulz, Briggs, Cochran, 2014, Pearson Education. This text is an eText only. There are no paper copies available for purchase, however, you can print the eText.

Accessing your course with Single Sign On

- ❖ Generally, you will access your course through Blackboard (BB) by going to learn.uark.edu. Log in using your university email login and password. There is a link in the "Course Content" tab that will directly sign you in to MLP and allow you to work on your homework, quizzes, and exams.
 - ❖ If there is ever a time when Blackboard is NOT working and you need "the back door access to MLP," go to uark.bb.mylabsplus. Your login is your university email without the @uark.edu part. The first time you do this, you will click on "forgot password" and the directions for resetting your MLP password will be sent to your uark email.
- The MLP software is installed in the General Access Computer Labs (GACL) and on the computers on the second floor of the Science and Engineering Building (SCEN) on the University of Arkansas Campus. Using other computers will require you to install the necessary MLP programs by clicking on the Course Home tab then clicking on Browser Check (found about midway down the page under Announcements).

Problems with Software

 If you cannot access your MLP course:

- ❖ Check your browser- click on Browser Check near the middle of the Course Home page under announcements
- ❖ If you are having issues opening the eText, you probably need to download the CDF player. A link to this download is found under chapter contents in MyLabsPlus.
- ❖ Delete your cookies
- ❖ Try a different browser – This nearly ALWAYS solves the problem
- ❖ Try a different computer
- ❖ Contact Pearson Tech Support by clicking on the Help & Support link at the top of the page

Blackboard Support

If you have any questions about Blackboard contact Blackboard Support: 479.575.6804 (Mon - Thurs: 7 am - 10 pm, Friday: 7 am - 5 pm, Saturday: 11 am - 4 pm, Sunday: 6 pm - 11 pm). Or, you can email: bbhelp@uark.edu. If Blackboard is not responding, or there are problems with the system after business hours, please call 479.575.2904. The appropriate personnel will be notified.

Grading

Grades will be calculated according to the categories and weights shown to the right. A detailed explanation of each category is provided below.

The final letter grade is based on the following percentage scale. These are general guidelines and are subject to modification. **IF** there is a curve, it will be on the final grade. The amount will not be known until all points are in for the entire semester. A = 90%-100%; B = 80%-89%; C = 70%-79%; D = 60%-69%; F = 0-59%

Category	%
Homeworks	15%
Partner Projects	10%
Cumulative Quizzes	10%
Checkpoint 1	10%
Midterm	20%
Checkpoint 2	10%
Final (comprehensive)	25%

Homeworks: You **MUST** do the homework to succeed and to build the confidence you will need to pass the exams. Each section of homework has a due date in MLP, however, you may still work on the homework assignment after the due date passes. All homework will be submitted for a score on the last day of classes (April 30) at 11:59 pm. At least your two lowest homework grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

The homework assignment will include a link to the textbook section. It is required that you click on this link before you will be allowed to view the homework questions. It is recommended that you leave the eText open and read it while working on the homework questions.

Partner Projects: Partner projects are a chance for you to help one another solve a challenging problem. To aid me in assigning partners, I ask that you first provide a small introduction in the discussion board forum titled "Introductions". For each partner project, you will be assigned one or two partners to work with. We will follow the following schedule:

	Introductions	Partner Project 1	Partner Project 2	Partner Project 3
Assigned	January 12	January 20	February 23	March 30
Due	January 19	February 13	March 20	April 24

On the assignment day, I will give each member of the group a challenging problem to solve. You are to solve the problem and then teach your partner how to solve it. You can do this by making a video, power point, document, or you can meet online through blackboard collaborate for a one on one tutoring session (if you choose this option, be sure to record it so that you can submit it to me for grading). Then have your partner solve a similar problem and check their work to make sure they understood the concept. You will be graded on the following aspects:

- Communication (25%):** I expect to see a log of conversations between you and your partner. You can do this with the discussion board in blackboard or by cc'ing me on emails between one another. If you don't understand your partner's explanation, be sure to tell them that you don't understand and try to pinpoint the place where you begin to get lost.
- Teaching (25%):** You should be clear and precise in your instruction. I should be able to easily see that you have amply prepared and have a deep understanding of the topic.
- Learning (25%):** You must show patience and an effort to learn the material. Ask questions if anything is not clear. If the subject is clear to you, express this to your partner.
- Grading and Giving Feedback (25%):** This mostly pertains to the similar problem that your partner is to solve as a check to see if they learned the topic. You are expected to check the work and give feedback. If they get it wrong, correct their mistake gently. You are not required to, but you may consider giving them another try with a new problem.

Cumulative Quizzes: Each week you will be assigned a quiz (assigned Monday, due Sunday at 11:59 pm). The quiz will be designed to evaluate how well you retain the ideas and perform the skills discussed in the previous week(s). They will always be cumulative, which means that the questions are pulled from any material assigned up to and including the current week.

Although the quizzes can be taken anywhere, you should think of them as mini exams. Each quiz will be assigned with a timer and a prerequisite. Before being allowed to begin the quiz, you will have to have a 70% on each week's homework prior to and including the current week and a 100% on the course entry quiz. You will be allowed to attempt each quiz three times and only the highest score will contribute to your average. At least your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Please do not wait until the last minute to work on assignments. Keep in mind that computer/internet problems close to deadlines are **NOT** a valid reason for missing a quiz (or homework).

Course Entry Quiz: This is an extra quiz at the beginning of the semester that doesn't count as a part of your grade. You must score 100% on this course entry quiz before you can work in MLP. The questions on this quiz will be from this syllabus and/or other resources found on blackboard.

Exams: There will be four tests given during the course of this semester. Unlike other assignments, tests must be completed in the MRTC testing center (SCEN 203) during the prescribed dates. **If you are unable to come to campus to take your exams, please let me know immediately. In this case, I will ask that you test with an online proctoring service.**

The midterm will cover all material from the first half of the semester, and the final exam will be comprehensive. The first checkpoint will cover all material up to that point, and the second checkpoint will cover all new material since the midterm. The following table further details these points:

	Dates	Chapters Covered
Checkpoint 1	February 11, 12 or 13	1.1 – 2.4, Appendix A
Midterm	TBA	1.1 – 4.5, Appendix A
Checkpoint 2	April 15, 16, or 17	5.1 – 6.2
Final Exam	May 4	Comprehensive

For the checkpoints taken in MyLabsPlus, you will be allowed to review your test immediately after submitting. Be sure that you do not close the window until after you have finished reviewing, because once the window is closed, it cannot be reopened and you will be unable to review your test. In addition, be sure that you select to enable pop-ups on the MLP website *before* starting your test, or you might miss your opportunity to review your test entirely. If you notice that a question was marked as incorrect due to a typo, you may request and fill out a pink sheet to receive credit for that question. Only answers that are clearly correct (except for a typo) are eligible to receive credit back.

Gradebook

The MLP Gradebook can take up to 12 hours to update your scores (this rarely happens, but it is possible). Therefore you must have the required prerequisite homework completed at least 12 hours before you plan to take a quiz or test/exam.

Grades in the MLP Gradebook are approximations of your actual grade. All your grades will be kept in the MLP Gradebook, NOT the Blackboard Gradebook.

Extension Policy

There will be *no* extensions for any quiz, any homework, or any exam/checkpoint. In lieu of extensions, we will drop at least two of your lowest grades in each of the quiz and homework categories. Aegrotats will not be accepted.

Calculators

Currently, graphing calculators are not allowed in Calculus courses offered at the University of Arkansas; therefore, you will be limited to similar calculators in this Precalculus course. You will be allowed to use a nonprogrammable, non-graphing scientific calculator during exams. For the exams given in the Testing Center, you will be provided a TI-30X IIS calculator. Note that the proctors at Testing Center will not answer questions about operation of these calculators. It is strongly recommended that you use a TI-30X IIS while doing online homework and quizzes so that you can get familiar with the calculator.

Etiquette Policy

Remember you are in a college level course so you are expected to approach all assignments in a professional and intelligent manner. This means, in all communications you should use correct spelling and correct grammar; avoid the use of emoticons, net abbreviations and slang.

Tutoring and Extra Practice Problems (Study Plan)

There are free student tutors in the Enhanced Learning Center (Gregson Hall), Mullins Library, Reid, Futrall, Maple Hill. Visit <http://elc.uark.edu/> for more details. Also, you can get help and work on MLP components of the course in the MRTC Tutoring Labs on the second floor of SCEN. Visit <http://mrtc.uark.edu/> for hours.

If you are in want of extra problems to practice, click on Study Plan in MyLabsPlus (bottom button on left). Here, MyLabsPlus will give recommendations on which topics to practice based on performance in homeworks, quizzes,

and exams. You can follow the MyLabsPlus recommendations or you can click on “View all chapters” to see a list of all problems available in the program, listed in order by chapter and section.

Academic Integrity

“As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail.” Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which may be found at <http://provost.uark.edu/>. Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.

Accommodations

Under University policy and federal and state law, students with documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations to ensure the student has an equal opportunity to perform in class. If you have such a disability and need special academic accommodations, please report to Center for Educational Access (CEA). Reasonable accommodations may be arranged after CEA has verified your disability. You must submit your paperwork to your instructor or Dr. Cleaveland (SCEN 220) as soon as possible. To receive accommodation this must be done at least a week before you take a test/online quiz/exam. Do not hesitate to contact your instructor or a member of the MRTC Staff if any assistance is needed in this process.

Inclement Weather or Technical Problems

In case of inclement weather or technological problems that prevent the University from providing access to course materials you may send the instructor an email inquiry. In addition, the instructor will notify students as soon as possible in such instances and provide instructions on how the course will proceed.

Blackboard occasionally schedules "down time"; users will be notified in advance through a system-wide announcement so schedule your online work accordingly. If you are experiencing difficulties with the operation or navigation of Blackboard you can visit the UA Blackboard Help website (<http://bbsupport.uark.edu>). Please note that personal technical issues (i.e. computer crashes or lack of knowledge of Blackboard) are considered to be the responsibility of the student and will not excuse the student from assignments or other course responsibilities.

Emergency Procedures (this information is included since you will be going to the Testing Center on campus) Many types of emergencies can occur on campus. Instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at emergency.uark.edu.

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

- CALL- 9-1-1
- AVOID- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- DENY- Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.
- DEFEND- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time. You will be notified of changes on the MLP/BB Announcement pages, and/or via university email.