

Math 1314 College Algebra

I. PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Professor:	Dr. Vinh Dang	Office Phone:	281-618-5684
Office:	WINSHIP 115 T	Office Hours	M/W: 11:15-12:15 and 2-2:30 T/Th: 11:50-12:50 Virtual office hour: F 8-9pm
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II. WELCOME TO:

Term and Year:	Fall 2017
Course Title:	MATH 1314
Course Subject:	COLLEGE ALGEBRA
Course Sections:	1213
Class Days & Times:	T/Th 10am-11:20 am
Class Room Locations:	Winship 118
Credit Hours:	3

COURSE OVERVIEW:

College Algebra is designed to fulfill the minimum math requirements for graduation from a state four-year college and to develop the algebraic skills and concepts needed for study in future math courses. Students will learn essential algebraic skills such as solving quadratic and radical equations, develop an understanding of functions including topics such as the domain and range of a function, functional notation, piecewise-defined functions, function transformations, operations with functions, the inverse of a function, graphs of polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions, and matrix solutions to systems of linear equations.

III. GETTING READY:

Prerequisites: Intermediate Algebra (Math 0310) or placement by testing.
English 0305 or 0316 (developmental reading) or placement into college Level English by testing.
English 0307 or 0326 (developmental writing) or placement into college Level English by testing.

This is a rigorous college level mathematics course. Hence, in order to be successful in the class, it is important that you are prepared for it. Otherwise, it will only slow your progress and hurt your grade. The pretest consists of watching the videos on essential topics that you are expected to know well before taking this class: Order of operations with integers, fractions, exponents, factoring, rational expressions and radicals. You need to master these topics before you can understand the stuff we are going to cover in 1314. If you cannot recall them after watching the videos, please email me and we will discuss your options which may include enrolling for Math 0310 first.

Required Materials:

- 1) **MyMathLab Online Homework System:**
This includes the eBook and the Online Homework System
You are required to register at www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com
by the end of Tuesday, September 12th, 2017. Registration instruction can be downloaded on the course website. You can get temporarily access for 21 days before you have to pay. However, eventually you must purchase the access code. You can purchase it from the LSC bookstore or online from Pearson. **MyMathLab Homework system is required for this class and you will be dropped from the class if you fail to register and have zeros on 4 homework assignments.**
- 2) **A (Non-Graphing) Scientific Calculator such as the TI-30XIIS or Casio FX-115:**
These run from \$10-\$20 on the market. Note that you will not be allowed to use a Graphing Calculator or cellphone on the paper-and-pencil exams. It is possible to solve the problems on the exam without a calculator, but you will be at a clear disadvantage due to the time constraint.
- 3) **Positive learning attitudes:** take responsibility for your study, work hard, be patient, be perseverant, demonstrate professionalism and treat people with respect.

Course Websites:

<http://apps.lonestar.edu/blogs/vindang/fall-2017/math-1314-1213-college-algebra-tth10am/>

In addition to mymathlab, this is the most important website for this course. You can find plenty of resources on the course website that can help you succeed.

(Syllabus, calendar, class notes, exam reviews, slides, videos, etc.)

<https://d2l.lonestar.edu/>

(this is for the purpose of recording your grades only)

IV. INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES AND POLICIES:

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION:

MyMathLab Homework	15%
3 Regular Exams	60% (3 exams @ 20% each)
Final Exam	25%

GRADING POLICY:

90 – 100: A; 80–89.9: B; 70 –79.9: C; 60 – 69.9: D; 59.9 or Below: F.

If any of your exam scores is below 50%, you cannot receive a grade of “A” for the course, no matter what your percentage works out to be. **THIS APPLIES EVEN IF AN EXAM SCORE IS REPLACED BY THE FINAL EXAM SCORE.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Your attendance is critical. I cannot help you if you are not present.
- **Attendance is taken daily. I reserve the right to drop you after 3 or more absences.**
- You are expected to attend all classes and be on time. If you are more than 10 minutes late or if you leave in the middle of my lecture, it is counted as an absence. Arriving late to class or leaving the classroom in the middle of lecture is disrespectful and disruptive to your classmates and professor. Unless prior arrangement is made with me, I might drop students who arrive late or leave early three or more times.

HOMEWORK:

- The homework is assigned using MyMathLab to provide you with valuable online resources and immediate feedback. Work on the homework for a section immediately after we cover that section in class. The due date for each homework assignment is posted on MyMathLab and in the class calendar. You are responsible for knowing which assignment is due when and complete the assignment before the due date. You must complete each homework assignment by the due date. Otherwise, you will receive a zero. **There will be no extensions or make-up to any of the homework assignments under any circumstances.** I do understand that unforeseeable events can occur; hence, see the section on Extra Credit.
- In general, there are 4 sets of homework. The first set consists of all the assignments on the sections that Test 1 covers, the second set consists of all the assignments on the sections that Test 2 covers, and so on. The last set consists of all the remaining assignments after Test 3. Each homework assignment typically has a Media part and a Question part. You can simply click on the videos and the reading material to complete the Media part. However, I expect you to watch the videos and skim through the reading material rather than simply clicking through the links. The Media part will help deepen your understanding and prepare you for the questions to come. Typically, the first few questions in the Question part also have you watch a video and solve a problem related to the video. The remaining questions will have you solve problems related to the material of that section. There are multiple ways you can get help from MyMathLab if you get stuck.
- The only way to learn mathematics is to DO mathematics. The homework is designed to help you understand the essential material and develop your problem solving skills. With limited class

time, there will be many important extensions of concepts and techniques and many types of problems that are covered in the homework assignments instead of in class. Therefore, the key to keep up with the fast pace of the course and do well in exams is to constantly practice solving homework problems and understand all the steps, concepts, definitions and results involved in their solutions.

- Visit my office during office hours or visit the MAC center for help with homework problems when you get stuck. I also strongly encourage you to work in groups and collaborate on the homework assignments. However, do not simply copy the answers from your classmates, make sure you understand every step of the solutions and all the concepts involved in a problem.
- In addition to my office hours on campus, I will hold virtual office hour every Friday night from 8 to 9pm. You can join my virtual office hour by using the link lonestar.webex.com/meet/vindang
- **I reserve the right to drop you if you have 4 zeros on your homework assignments.**

REGULAR EXAMS/FINAL EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY:

- You will have 3 regular exams and a final. All exams are paper-and-pencil. You must show all work on the written part of the exam. All cellphones must be turned off and put in your backpacks, and all cellphones and backpacks must be put in the front of the class. Having a cellphone on or with you during any of the exams immediately results in a zero for that exam.
- No make-up exams will be given. I do understand that schedules get hectic. Thus, if you know in advance that you will need to miss an exam, let me know and I will try to make an arrangement. The following guidelines will apply:
 - You must notify me both in person and via email.
 - You must notify me at least one week prior to the exam date.
 - If you wish to take the exam, you must take it before the regular scheduled time.
 - Notice that a panicked cellphone call from the freeway on the morning of the exam does not fall into this category. Such an event is covered below.
 - Notice that asking me several days (or weeks or months) after the exam does not fall into this category. Such an event is covered below
- I also understand that unforeseeable events can occur. Hence, I will replace the lowest of your exam#1-3 scores with the score you make on the final exam, provided the score on the final exam is higher than your lowest regular exam scores. If you miss an exam, you will simply have your score from the final substituted for the missing score. The following guidelines will apply:
 - The final exam will not be replaced. You must take the final.
 - If you miss 2 exams, only one will be replaced.

EXTRA CREDIT:

I strongly encourage you to diligently work on the homework assignments. Be neat, accurate and organized and always show quality work on all the exercises in the assignments. Show all your work on a college-ruled notebook. During each of the exam, I will collect your notebook and grade the homework assignments for that test for completion. **If your work is satisfactory, you will earn an extra 1% for your overall percentage of the class.** So in total, you can earn up to 4% for your overall percentage of the class.

For your work to be marked as satisfactory, you must

- Solve the homework exercises and show all your work on a separate notebook.
- Clearly label the title of the assignment and the Question number (#) for each exercise. All your solutions must be clearly labeled and in order.
- Write all your work neatly for each exercise.
- Demonstrate that you have made serious attempts to solve 90% or more of all the exercises assigned.

USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT IN CLASS:

- Unless otherwise given permission by your instructor, all cell phones and laptop computers must be turned off and placed out of sight. Personal electronic devices of any kind are not allowed once class has begun.
- Text messaging is not allowed in the classroom, you will be asked to leave the classroom if you engage in text messaging.
- During regular exams and the final, you must turn off all your cell phones, laptops, PDA's, ipads, etc. and put them in your backpacks and put your backpacks in the front of the class. **If you have an electronic communication device with you during the exam, you will receive a zero on the exam regardless of whether you use it or not. This is absolutely non-negotiable.**

BEHAVIOR:

I have zero tolerance for inappropriate and/or disrespectful behaviors, language and/or profanity in class, during my office hours or in email-communication. Students who engage in such behaviors will be removed from the class room or dropped from the class, depending on the circumstances. I will also remove any individual from the lectures/ discussions and/or the course who is deemed by me and/or others to be disrupting the educational process. In serious circumstances, students might be referred to the appropriate LSC offices which could result in disciplinary actions or dismissal from the college. This is a fast-paced course and there are a lot of material to cover. Hence, the class is primarily lecture-oriented and I will spend most of class time to lecture on the important concepts, important problem solving techniques and examples. If you have homework questions, policy questions, questions on previous material, or questions on the prerequisite material for this class, come to my office during my office hours and I will be happy to answer them. On the other hand, I welcome and encourage you to answer the questions and exercises that I pose during my lecture.

HOW TO EMAIL YOUR PROFESSOR:

View an Email to a Professor as a Professional Interaction:

- Begin your email by addressing your professor by title and last name, and end your email with a closing and your signature. (For example, begin by “Dear/Hi Dr. Dang” or Professor Dang. End by ”Sincerely, Your Name” or “Thanks, Your Name.”)
- Be clear and concise. Use correct spelling and proper grammar.
- Always use an informative subject line. Write a few words indicating the purpose of your message. Do not leave the subject line blank.
- Specify who you are and specify which class you are taking before diving into the specifics.
- Before composing an email to your professor, check the syllabus. Class policies, such as office hours, assignment details, policies on missed classes and exams, etc. are addressed in the syllabus. If something is still not clear, then by all means ask your question --- but first attempt to answer the question yourself and only write if you need further clarification.
- Do not make demands. Explain your circumstances and your needs, and ask politely for accommodation.
- Do not use your email to vent, rant, or whine. If you have a complaint, or are not happy about something, explain yourself calmly and ask if anything can be done. You may very well be frustrated about a situation, but sending an angry email will not help things. In situations like this, it is also often more helpful to talk to the professor in person rather than send an email -- particularly since tone and intent can often be misinterpreted in emails.
- Be respectful, and consider whether anything you have written might sound rude or offensive to your professor.
- Allow time for a response. Allow 24-48 hours for a professor to reply -- possibly more if it is a weekend or holiday.

READING THE BOOK:

Except for the first day, I expect you to read the eBook sections that we are going to cover in class before coming to class. That way, class time will be more like a review and you can follow my lecture and internalize the important concepts, techniques and examples we cover much more effectively.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Successful students follow instructions. The syllabus and class calendar are the primary sources of instructions in any college course; so successful students read them carefully and refer to them regularly.
2. Successful students, those that get A's, B's, and C's, use their time wisely. The standard formula for college coursework is that every hour of class time will result in two to three

hours of homework, so a three unit class will do an average of six or more hours of homework (doing homework, reading textbook, studying notes) per week. As a result, successful students plan their time wisely so that they keep up with assignments.'

3. Successful students take time to do the homework and do it on time. Mathematics can be a lot of fun when you understand what is being explained. When you are not keeping up with the class, it becomes more difficult to follow the instructor's explanation and to read the book.
4. Successful students seek assistance when needed. Go to your professor's office hours and virtual office hours, go to the MAC, form study groups and work on problems and learn the material together.
5. Successful students are neat, accurate and well organized. They always attempt to do quality work on all exercises.
6. Successful students are perseverant. An interesting characteristic of learning mathematics is that at one moment you may feel totally confused, and then suddenly the light bulb goes on and you understand the material! Some mathematical concepts take time to digest and you might find that after a few days of working some of the exercises, they finally start to make sense.
7. Successful students prepare carefully for the exams. In math courses, you show proficiency by taking exams. Study for the exams by reviewing class notes, slides, videos, examples in the book, questions and problems from your homework assignments, and review sheets.
8. Tell yourself what you have learned. As you learn new concepts, point out to yourself what you have learned so that your confidence in your mathematical ability will increase. Each mathematical concept you understand becomes another tool that you can use.

THINGS I HATE:

1. WILL THIS BE ON THE TEST?
2. WHEN IS THE FINAL?
3. NOT FOLLOWING BLATANT DIRECTIONS.
4. NOT STOPPING AN EXAM WHEN TIME IS CALLED.
5. HOW MANY QUESTIONS WILL THERE BE ON THE TEST?
6. DO YOU HAVE A CALCULATOR I CAN USE?
7. DO YOU HAVE A PENCIL I CAN USE?
8. IS THERE ANY EXTRA CREDIT?
9. **COMPLAINING ABOUT HAVING TO BE HERE.**

RESOURCES:

Math Lab Tutoring: Students can get free help from tutors in MAC center (Winship 110). No appointment is necessary and the Lab is staffed with a tutor or tutors during all the hours it is open. Rhonda Cannon, Counselor for Math and Natural Sciences, is available in Winship 115G to assist you in meeting your academic, career, and personal goals.

CAMPUS CARRY:

The Texas Legislature enacted campus carry by passing Senate Bill 11, effective at LSC on August 1, 2017. Senate Bill 11, known as the “Campus Carry” law, amends Texas law to allow license holders to carry concealed handguns on college campuses. To carry a concealed handgun on LSC campuses, an individual must have a valid License to Carry issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

LSC has established rules and regulations regarding enforcement of Campus Carry. Lone Star College prohibits concealed carry in some areas of LSC campuses. For more information about Campus Carry, visit the LSC Campus Carry website at <http://www.lonestar.edu/campuscarry>.

ADA STATEMENT (2017)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact the LSC-North Harris Disability Services Office as soon as possible (Winship 120, 281-765-7940). Disability Services will provide you with the documentation I need in order to provide your accommodation(s). Failure to handle this in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

6 – DROP STATEMENT

Students who enrolled in Texas public institutions of higher education as first-time college students during the Fall 2007 term or later are subject to section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code, which states that an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop (withdraw with a grade of “W”) from more than six courses. This six-course limit includes courses that a transfer student has previously dropped at other Texas public institutions of higher education if they fall under the law.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION INFORMATION

Lone Star College System (LSCS) is committed to maintaining the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and guests while visiting any of our campuses. See <http://www.lonestar.edu/oem> for details. Register at <http://www.lonestar.edu/12803.htm> to receive emergency notifications. In the event of an emergency contact LSCS Police at (281) 290-5911 or X5911.

The Learning Environment, Ethics, and Student Code of Conduct

Lone Star College-North Harris is privileged that you have chosen our campus to attend college. We are here to provide you with a positive and safe learning atmosphere where you can focus on your higher education goals. Our number one priority is student success.

We have high expectations of our students and believe we have created an environment that includes superior faculty, beautiful campus grounds, unparalleled student services and excellent academic resources. However, to be successful you have to do your part as a college student.

Faculty members have full authority to set reasonable standards of conduct that are acceptable in their classrooms. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Cheating, stealing, misuse of educational materials, and plagiarism are all examples of academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated. College students are expected to maintain a high code of ethics.

- **USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY DEVICES IN CLASSROOMS**

Unless otherwise given permission by your instructor, **all cell phones and laptop computers must be turned off and placed out of sight.** Personal electronic devices of any kind are not allowed once class has begun.

- **BEHAVIOR**

Use of inappropriate language and/or profanity **will not be tolerated.** Disrespectful verbal or physical acts toward faculty or classmates **will not be tolerated.**

- **DRESS CODE**

Students are expected to dress and groom themselves in an appropriate manner while on campus or while participating in activities sponsored by the college. **Display of personal undergarments, lingerie, pajamas, provocative dress or clothing with vulgar language or subject matter is not appropriate attire for a college environment.**

Violations of this code of conduct at LSC-North Harris may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the college.

LSCS Board Policy is available at: **LoneStar.edu/Student-Responsibilities**

LSCS student code of conduct can be found in the LSCS Student Guide at:
LoneStar.edu/departments/advising/LSCS_Student_Handbook_Web.pdf