

Sul Ross State University

Course Syllabus

MATH 1314: College Algebra

Fall 2026



Instructor: Ms. Rico

Location: Amy St. Building Room-0A117

Office Hours: 6:00 pm - 8:50pm

Email: mric5789@sulross.edu

Phone #: (830) 758-5005

Course Description

An in-depth study and application of relations and functions, including polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Topics include solving quadratic and higher-order polynomial equations and inequalities algebraically, graphically, and numerically; analyzing real and complex zeros; evaluating operations on functions; and solving systems of linear equations using matrices. Additional topics such as sequences, series, probability, and conic sections may also be included.

Textbook

Algebra and Trigonometry, 1st edition. You will need access to the online textbook and homework. This course uses Hawkes Learning, an innovative, educational courseware platform providing instructional content and mastery-based learning to enhance student success in college courses. You will find a link to Hawkes in your MATH 1314 Blackboard course.

Supplies

In addition to access to your Hawkes account, you must have pencils and a notebook dedicated to this class.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be expected to:

- Solve linear, quadratic, rational and radical equations and inequalities using various methods.
- Graph functions by plotting points and performing transformations on certain parent functions.
- Graph polynomial functions by finding roots using synthetic or long division and distinguish the end behavior of graphs.
- Model growth and decay problems using exponential functions.
- Solve systems of equations in two and three variables.

Student Learning Outcomes

BS Mathematics Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

- The student will be able to demonstrate content knowledge of basic mathematical principles.
- The student will be proficient in logic, able to negate statements, provide counterexamples to false statements, and determine the validity of arguments.
- The student will be able to communicate mathematical content clearly and with valid reasoning.

Marketable Skills - Mathematics BS

1. Students demonstrate logical and analytical skills.
2. Students demonstrate problem-solving using analytical and algebraic methods.
3. Students use technology in problem-solving and presentation.
4. Students use communication and pedagogical skills.

General Policies

You are expected to bring all necessary materials and take notes and participate. You are expected to turn-off and not to access any electronic, non-task oriented device such as cell/smart phones/ipads and i-phones unless your textbook is on such a device. Again, a cell phone cannot be used as a calculator. Devices for recording the lecture are permitted; either audio or video. Should you fail to silence (including the "vibrate" function) your phone, you risk being ask to leave class. Any personal business must be conducted via email or by appointment. I will only discuss grades and attendance issues via email or a zoom meeting during office hours. Classroom time is for the entire class.

Grading Policy : The grade weighting will be as follows

Homework 10%

Quizzes: 20%

Exams: 30%

Projects 15%

Final Exam: 25%

Grading Scale: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, 59-Below F

Homework

Homework will be assigned daily through the online homework system. Homework is graded on mastery. All homework along with due dates will be posted on the Hawkes Learning System. You can attempt a homework assignment until you complete it, but you will be forced to go back to the practice mode if you miss too many problems. There will be a graduated point exemption for late assignments, but if unforeseen circumstances come up, please talk to me.

Quizzes

You will have quizzes over material covered. These quizzes will be graded out of 100 points and are designed to only take 10-15 minutes. These could also contain questions concerning the material you have to read to prepare for class.

Exams

No make-up exams will be given. If an exam is missed with a valid excuse, the grade on the final can replace this exam. Any exams missed beyond one will be an automatic zero. Exams will be closed notes, closed book, and no calculator will be allowed unless otherwise stated by your instructor. Once you start an exam, you have to finish it.

Attendance Policy

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, nonattendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three-hour class will constitute three absences. The University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor may drop a student for excessive absences with a grade of "F". In distance education courses, this policy is interpreted as nonparticipation. Non-participation and inactivity may include not logging on to the course, not submitting assignments or participating in other assigned activities as scheduled, not communicating with the instructor by phone or email, and/or not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

According to the University catalog, "When a student has to miss class due to an authorized university activity, it will be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of the class in advance [and to complete all assignments] within a reasonable time and at the convenience of the instructor."

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Americans With Disabilities Act Statement

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. To help protect confidentiality, students seeking accessibility/accommodation(s) services must submit the [Accommodation Request Form](#) located on our [website](#). Students are welcome to call the Office of Accessibility Services at 432-837-8203 or stop by Ferguson Hall Room 112 if they have any additional questions regarding the process. Our mailing address is PO Box C-122; Alpine, TX; 79832.

Statement Regarding Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The University does not recommend or endorse any specific AI tools or resources. Students should be aware that many generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot) store user input and may use this data to train future models. For this reason, students should never upload or share personal, confidential, or identifiable information—such as names, ID numbers, health data, or assignment submissions containing such details—into any generative AI platform. When using AI tools, students should verify whether the tool complies with student privacy standards as indicated by the University. Faculty may recommend specific tools that better align with institutional data privacy policies, but ultimate responsibility for data protection rests with users. Students are encouraged to use faculty-recommended platforms when engaging in coursework involving generative AI. The University is not liable for any adverse experience or impact when students interact with these tools.

Student Responsibilities

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize him/herself with the requirements of such laws.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.

Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Library Services

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Tutoring Center

The Lobo Den Tutoring Center offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

Important Information:

- Contact Us: For more information or to book an appointment, email tutoring@sulross.edu or call (432) 837-8726.

Looking for additional support?

- Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
- Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Counseling

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/srsu). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

Supportive Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.