

**College Algebra MATH 131  
Sections 02 and 03  
Syllabus Spring 2024**

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**Office:** CM 217 [CM stands for Commons. My office is above the cafeteria in the Math and Science Building.]

**Phone:** 618-468-4844

**Website:** [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com)

**Office hours (CM 217):** Monday & Wednesday 8:30 – 9:30 am and 10:45 am – 1:00 pm; Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 – 9:00 am and 10:45 am – 12:00 pm

**Tutors Available:** Online and in-person tutoring with Brandy and company in the Math & Science Resource Center, CM 233, email [bkribs@lc.edu](mailto:bkribs@lc.edu) or call 618-468-4118 for more information; more information given below

We will cover the material with a mix of lectures, worksheets, and questions. Please feel free to ask questions and pose comments in class. My lessons contain lots of examples similar to the homework problems. You will save yourself much stress by studying the notes before you start your homework. Do the homework promptly and thoroughly. Practice will help you immensely.

You will do most of your homework assignments and exams through MyMathLab (MML). Homework counts for a good deal of your grade so it is crucial that you keep up with the assignments. You can work your homework assignments at any computer with internet access. We will meet in a computer lab during class time to take exams.

You will want a three-ring binder notebook to keep your notes. I have prepared Class Notes which we will complete during class. You will have a MyMathLab (MML) assignment to complete for each section. You should keep a dedicated spiral notebook or separate section in your binder for your organized, labeled (online) homework. Do *not* just use scraps of paper as you need it. Keep all work in one place to make it easier to study and ask questions.

**Website ([www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com)):**

My Website has many resources for you. You will use it when you miss class or when you need clarification of an announcement or policy. If I refer to “the Website”, I am referring to [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com). You can access everything you need from here including the following.

- Class Notes with definitions and examples (including completed copies)
- Daily Log, a day-by-day account of class activities and announcements
- Tentative exam schedule, a listing of the sections each covers and dates
- Syllabus, handouts, worksheets, and solutions to some of the worksheets
- Archived worksheets that may help you review or extend certain topics
- Link to the publisher-provided MyMathLab (MML) Website

### **Textbook, MyMathLab, and Calculator:**

· *College algebra: Enhanced with Graphing Utilities*, Sullivan & Sullivan, 2021, eighth edition. We will cover most of chapters 2 – 6 and 8 as well as section 1.4. The book is available through MyMathLab (MML, described later) in electronic form. It is possible to just have access to MyMathLab and use the electronic book instead of purchasing a paper copy.

· Your college fees paid for access to MyMathLab (MML). The MyMathLab Website (<http://www.mymathlab.com>) provides practice problems and tutorials. There will be graded homework assignments from MML. If you used MML for a previous class, you can use your previous login (username and password) information. If you do, be sure you have given them your current email address. Below you will see how to get your MML access code (which tells MML that you paid for the product) and the course ID which will get you in the right class.

· We are using Red Shelf this semester to get you the MML access code. This is fairly new to me as it may be to you, so please have patience. There are two ways you can get the access code that tells MML that you paid for the software. Number 1 option, they may email (to your LC email address) a link to get to your “shelf” where the access code will be. This email will come from RedShelf or BryteWave and it may be in your Spam folder. Number 2 option, set up a BryteWave account on their Website <https://brytewave.redshelf.com>. **You must use your LC email address since that is the one they have on file for you.** Once you have your access code, you still need to visit [www.mymathlab.com](http://www.mymathlab.com) to enter it. **You must be enrolled by February 15 or you will be locked out and should drop the course.**

· You will need the course ID to enroll. **For section 02 (1:00 MW class), your course ID is o'leary-johnson87258. For section 03 (12:00 TTh class), your course ID is o'leary-johnson02523. You must enroll in the correct section. It is a real pain to correct it if you enroll in the wrong section.** The spelling of my name, including punctuation, is important. You may also need the zip code of the school, 62035.

· **You need a graphing calculator.** The calculators range in price but are very similar in function. The college officially suggests you get the TI-83 or TI-84 (TI stands for Texas Instruments). Most TI-83 instructions on my worksheets will also work for the TI-84. The TI-82, TI-85, and TI-86 are older models but will work fine. If you are not sure about your calculator, show it to me and we will see if it will work. Regardless of calculator type, I am willing to help you with it, but there are no guarantees. I am willing to help you with other non-TI brands as well. **Please bring your calculator to class every day. You need to get your calculator as soon as possible.** You may also want to bring the manual if it's a non-TI brand. It is *not* acceptable to attempt this class without a graphing calculator.

- We will cover the calculator a lot in class. There are also calculator worksheets and tutorials on the Website, some of which we will do as a class while others are optional. I will help but it is your responsibility to learn to use your calculator. Learn it well and it can be of great use to you in this class. Please ask questions when you have issues. The Math Resource Center (CM 233, described later) is also a great place to go for help.

- If you do *not* have an actual calculator, it is okay to use an app on your phone or calculator emulator program on your computer. A real calculator will need to be borrowed from the Math Resource Center for exam days.

**Evaluation/Point Breakdown:**

Attendance	10% of total
MyMathLab (MML) Homework Assignments	15% of total
Paper Worksheets Collected in Class	15% of total
Average of Four Exam Grades (MML)	60% of total

- The grade scale is A – 90%, B – 80%, C – 70%, D – 60%. Your grade information will be available through MyMathLab (MML). Your overall grade shown in MML will be accurate if you keep up with the assignments.

- We will complete graded and ungraded paper worksheets. You should work hard on all (graded and ungraded) worksheets and assignments and ask questions when you have them. You will see worksheets mentioned in the Class Notes. They are available on [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com) under Assorted Handouts and Tutorials on the Math 131 page. They are carefully designed to help you tackle hard concepts.

- We will have four exams. The exam component of your grade will be the average of these scores. You are required to take all exams. The exams will be in MML and taken with the class. We will meet in a computer classroom on exam days. **You are allowed to use your book and notes on the exams but you will work on your own.** You are required to get a score of at least 20% on all relevant homework before taking an exam. That way, you will not accidentally take a test without doing all of the homework first. The breakdown of book material on each exam and tentative dates are below. This may change slightly.

Exam	Sections covered	Tentative date	
		1:00 MW class	12:00 TTh class
1	1.4, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 3.1-3.6	Wed., Feb. 21	Tues., Feb. 20
2	4.1-4.4, 5.1-5.3, 5.5, 5.6	Wed., Mar. 20	Tues., Mar. 19
3	6.1-6.9	Mon., Apr. 22	Thurs., Apr. 18
4	8.1-8.4, 8.6	Wed., May 8	Tues., May 7

· The MML homework due dates will be set for the first class day (midnight) *after* the week we finish the section in class. One major exception to this is when we have an exam coming up. All homework for sections on an upcoming exam will be due the day **before** the exam (midnight). You can work the homework as much as you want up through the final due date (technically, they are due at midnight of the due date). Assignments are available after the due date; there is a caveat that is discussed later. However, a 50% deduction will apply for all problems done after the due date. That makes it very important to do the homework on time. There are no opening dates for homework, so you can try any homework as early as you want.

· For each chapter covered, you will see a Review Homework Assignment designed to help you study for the exams. Those will be due the day before the exam is scheduled.

· Homework will take some time to complete, so make sure you give yourself plenty of time. Plan on doing a little homework every day. **Keep in mind you do not need to do an assignment in one shot. You can start it one day and finish it another. In fact, you can go back and redo problems you missed to get full credit.** The MyMathLab (MML) Website offers tons of help on the problems including the **Ask My Instructor** button, which lets you email me a short message along with the exact problem you are working on. Use this to ask specific questions about a problem. My office hours are also available to you.

· MyMathLab (MML) has provided videos that you can watch through the Video & Resource Library (menu item). You may find they fill in holes left by our lectures. However, they are *not* mandatory and do *not* count toward your grade. The Class Notes focus on the material in the homework. You definitely want to complete the Class Notes (with me usually but on your own if you miss class) provided on [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com) before you attempt the MML homework. Completed copies of the Notes are provided. Be sure to ask me questions.

· Keep in mind that the “Overall grade” in the MML Gradebook does *not* include assignments that you have *not* started. The grade will look considerably higher than what you are actually earning if you have zeros on assignments. At the end of the semester, when I figure your course grade, your grade may drop significantly when it figures those zeros into your score. Do *not* let a high overall score (or worse, a low C) in MML fool you into not working hard to the end. To correct for this inaccuracy, there is a strict deadline around the midpoint of the semester. **For section 02, after Monday, April 1, you will *not* be able to complete any late homework assignments from chapters 1-5. For section 03, that date is Tuesday, April 2.**

· **The final date of submission for MML homework is Friday, May 10. This is the last day of class.** You will *not* be able to change your MML grade after that date. The MML site can be bogged down at the end of the semester which makes doing homework the last week of class very frustrating. Do *not* wait ‘til the last minute to do it.

## Attendance and makeup policies:

- Attendance is highly suggested. You are expected to come to class prepared. Poor attendance is a sure way to flunk.
- **When you miss class or come late, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed by going to your class' Daily Log on the Website [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com).** Of course, make sure you understand the material covered that day. Get the Class Notes and work the problems that we did in class. Bring the notes and other handouts with you to the next class. It is your responsibility to print out the assignment or Notes from the Website. When this is possible, the item will be underlined. Click on it to open it, and then print it. Completed copies of the Notes are provided so you can check your work or copy as needed. Printers are available in select computer labs around campus. Use the extensive videos and other resources available on MyMathLab (MML) and [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com) to catch up.
- **For paper worksheets or assignments I collect in class, you should complete it and turn it in as soon as you can (except exams; A makeup exam must be completed within one school week.)** You should always check the Daily Log on [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com) when you miss class; do not rely on me or friends to fill you in. If you are going to miss class for several days, check the Website regularly so you can keep up. You are not required to give me an excuse for the absence. Again, in order to reconcile your grade halfway through the semester, I will *not* accept any late paper assignments from chapters 1 through 5 after April 1 (section 02) or April 2 (section 03). If you are attending virtually, you can drop the worksheet by my office or email it to me.
- If you miss an exam, I will automatically send a make-up exam to the Haskell Testing Center by the end of the day. You will have **one school week** to take the exam. If you need an extension, talk to me. If you have not taken it or talked to me within this period, you will receive a 0. If you miss the last exam, you *must* email me if you intend to take it. Otherwise, I will assume that you do *not* intend to finish the class and will *not* automatically send it to Haskell.
- You will make up exams in the **Haskell Testing Center** which is located in **Haskell Hall (HK) B-25**. (It is located in the basement of Haskell Hall.) The **Haskell Testing Center's information is found at [www.lc.edu/testing](http://www.lc.edu/testing)**; read this information carefully. **You will need to make an appointment. Their phone number is 468-5232; their email address is [testingcenter@lc.edu](mailto:testingcenter@lc.edu).** You must show a **photo ID** to take your exam. Make sure you take your non-phone calculator. If you would prefer to make up your exam in Edwardsville, Jerseyville, or Carlinville, you will see the information for those alternative locations on their Website. You do *not* need my permission to use one of these alternative testing centers.

### MyMathLab (Quick Tutorial):

Below you will find a sample homework assignment in MML. You can select any problem in the set to work on. This is particularly useful when you are returning to a set to correct mistakes. Notice a check mark or an X indicates if you got it right or wrong (not shown on this example). Once you click in the answer space, an appropriate palette that allows you to enter fractions, radicals, exponents, etc. exactly as you would write them will appear. You are often expected to use the palette to enter your answers in the correct form. On the lower left-hand side, you will notice help topics that includes videos, completed examples, and other resources at your disposal. There is help available (and an option to print) under the Settings icon in the upper right if you have trouble with the interface as opposed to the math.

Rounding errors are possible if you do too much rounding early in a problem so do *not* round your answer until the very end. Be careful to follow the instructions on how to enter your answers. Specifically, they will denote how to round and what form your answer should be in. The instructions may vary from problem to problem. After you complete a problem, you must click “Check Answer”. Make sure you Save your work (top) before exiting.

Use the Ask My Instructor option (possibly under Get More Help on bottom) to report problems with grading or to ask specific questions about a problem. It is easy to get frustrated with an online tool like MML. Be sure to reach out with questions when they first occur.

The screenshot shows the MyMathLab interface for a homework assignment. The browser address bar shows 'mylab.pearson.com'. The page title is 'Do Homework - Section 13.2 Homework - Google Chrome'. The main header includes 'Homework: Section 13.2 Homework', 'Question 5, 13.2.17', 'HW Score: 0%, 0 of 15 points', and 'Points: 0 of 1'. A 'Save' button is in the top right. The main content area displays the question: 'Factor the trinomial completely.  $22 + 23m + m^2$ '. Below the question is a radio button selection for 'A.  $22 + 23m + m^2 = \square$  (Type your answer in factored form.)' and 'B. The polynomial is prime.' A 'Save' button is also present in the top right of the question area. A 'Check answer' button is at the bottom right. A 'Skill builder' button is at the bottom center. A 'Clear all' button is at the bottom left. A 'Get more help -' button is at the bottom left. A 'View an example' button is at the bottom left. A 'Help me solve this' button is at the bottom left. A 'Show completed' checkbox is at the bottom left. A 'More' button is at the bottom right. A 'Check answer' button is at the bottom right. A 'Skill builder' button is at the bottom center. A 'Clear all' button is at the bottom left. A 'Get more help -' button is at the bottom left. A 'View an example' button is at the bottom left. A 'Help me solve this' button is at the bottom left. A 'Show completed' checkbox is at the bottom left.

Annotations:

- Problem selection area
- Various settings including accessibility, printing, and help with the MML interface under the Settings icon
- Save before you quit.
- Palette for inputting certain answers will appear here when needed.
- Click Check Answer or press ENTER key after inputting answer above. If you get it wrong three times, it changes the question slightly (Similar Question).
- Various tools to help with the math are shown here. This may look different depending on what is available. Ask My Instructor may be under Get More Help.

### **Miscellaneous details:**

- I want you to feel comfortable with me and the class. If there is anything I can do to help you, please tell me. If I use the wrong pronoun (her versus him) in addressing you or mispronounce your name, please forgive me and tell me what you want to be called. If you are ever made to feel uncomfortable in the class or at school in general, please bring the issue to my attention.
- The handouts on the Website are in PDF format; you will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to read these. The Reader is available online at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) -- just follow the links to download the latest Acrobat Reader. It is free of charge. There are optional worksheets listed at the bottom of the “Assorted Handouts and Tutorials” portion of the Website. Use them for extra practice.
- If you need to contact me, phone, email me, or talk to me before or after class. I may send emails to either your LC email account or the email account you give to MML. If you do *not* use your LC email account frequently, please get in the habit or set it up to forward your mail to an account you do use. Email is inherently insecure; meaning if someone wanted to, they could read our emails. Be aware of this when you and I correspond.
- Unless it is a test day, do *not* email me just to tell me you are not coming to class; I do *not* need to know. Although, if you miss more than a few days, you might give me a quick buzz so I know you do not intend to quit the class. Do *not* email me to ask what you missed in class; get that information from the Daily Log on [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com). Remember, as I said earlier, if you miss the last exam, you *must* email me if you intend to take it.
- The **Math Resource Center (MRC, located in CM 233)** is available for in-person tutoring Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. In addition, there is online tutoring available Monday through Friday. Contact [bkribs@lc.edu](mailto:bkribs@lc.edu) or call 618-468-4118 to set that up for yourself. Their Website is linked from my Website where you can find other information.
- The last day for a full refund is January 26. The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is April 19 (to avoid a D or F). The last day of the semester is Friday, May 10.
- **Accommodations:** If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, inform me as soon as possible, giving us time to discuss the course format, anticipate your needs and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the staff of the Center for Access and Accommodations for assistance in verifying the need for accommodation and accommodation strategies. Contact the office in Fobes 1525 (618-468-4121) or [access@lc.edu](mailto:access@lc.edu). Requests for accommodations must be made in writing and signed by the student. [Note: Accommodations will not change the amount or type of assignments you must complete. They are only aids in helping you complete the required work by the posted due dates.]

· **Counseling:** Counseling is by appointment and on an emergency walk-in basis. Visits are confidential, free of charge, and include counseling for crisis intervention, brief therapy, academic issues, test anxiety, community resources, and referrals. Contact Center for Access and Accommodations in Caldwell Hall 2320 (618-468-4211).

· **Veteran Services:** We support our veteran and service member students and their families by providing a Veteran Services Department and a Veterans' Resource Center. This department supplements the assistance provided by Enrollment, Advising and Financial Aid. You can confidentially discuss academic or personal issues. Referrals will be made as needed to campus and/or community assistance. Contact Veteran Services in Baldwin Hall 2418 (618-468-5500).

· **Diversity Statement:** At Lewis and Clark Community College, we are seriously committed to supporting diversity and inclusion in our classrooms and community. We proactively strive to construct a safe and inclusive environment by respecting each other's dignity and privacy. We treat one another fairly and honor each member's experiences, beliefs, perspectives, abilities, and backgrounds, regardless of race, religion, language, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identification, ability status, socio-economic status, national identity, or any other identity markers. Bullying, hateful ideas, violent language, belittling, racial slurs, and other disrespectful or "othering" language or behavior will not be tolerated. We behave and communicate respectfully toward one another, both directly and indirectly, both inside and outside the classroom. A diverse and inclusive campus is our strength, and we want all who are part of our campus community to feel safe and respected.

If you ever have any concerns about the classroom climate, please reach out to Mya Lawrence, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence, CW 4329, 618-468-6030, [mylawrence@lc.edu](mailto:mylawrence@lc.edu)

· **Academic Continuity Statement:**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to change when necessitated by revised course delivery, semester calendar or other circumstances. Information about changes in this course can be obtained on [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com) or by contacting my email address: [soleary@lc.edu](mailto:soleary@lc.edu) or office phone 618-468-4844. If the course is not able to meet face-to-face, students should immediately check email. Students are also encouraged to continue the readings and other assignments as outlined on this syllabus or subsequent syllabi.

· **L&C Policy on Academic Honesty: Definition: Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids; use of any unauthorized assistance, resources, materials or electronic/cellular devices with or without photographic capability in taking quizzes, tests or examinations and the acquisition, without permission, of a test or other academic material belonging to Lewis & Clark Community College, to any department, or to any staff.



**Definition: Plagiarism:** Plagiarism at LCCC will *not* be tolerated. Plagiarism includes the reproduction of ideas, words or statements of another person as ones' own without acknowledgement or use of an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. If instructor has reason to believe students are in violation of this policy, students will be notified and appropriate action will be taken.

· **LCCC Plagiarism statement:** Assignments that have been copied from another student or another source will *not* be scored. "Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and forgery, violates the STUDENT CONDUCT CODE and will lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion". The following website will give you in-depth information on the definition of plagiarism and more:

<http://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism> Please visit this site if you need clarification.

· **Unauthorized Collaboration:** Unauthorized collaboration among students will *not* be tolerated. Unauthorized collaboration is defined as intentionally sharing or working together in an academic exercise when such actions are not approved by the course instructor. Academic exercises include but are not limited to all face-to-face and/or online classroom assignments, activities, exams, quizzes, worksheets, online discussion questions, term papers, case studies, projects, research, or any other requirement assigned by the instructor for which students receive individual grades. If the instructor has reason to believe students share or work together collaboratively on such academic exercises, the student(s) will be notified and at the minimum, receive a zero on the assignment.

· **Facilitation of Academic Dishonesty:** Permitting or attempting to help another to violate the academic honor code; Alteration or sabotage of another student's work, such as tampering with or modifying any online or written assignments including but not limited to quizzes, exams, worksheets, term papers, case studies, projects, research, discussion board entries, etc. If the instructor has reason to believe students facilitate academic dishonesty, the student(s) will be notified and appropriate action will be taken.

· **Virtual Meeting Policy:** By participating in our live events, you are acknowledging awareness that, depending on your involvement, your name, voice, comments, and likeness may be recorded and shared with other L&C students and faculty. If you are uncomfortable participating with these acknowledgements, please contact your course instructor for alternate arrangements.

· **Stef's additional comment:** In the case we go virtual, feel free to *not* allow Zoom to use your video camera and to use an alias. If you do use an alias, please tell me in a private chat or email so I know who you really are. I want you to be comfortable in my class. Tell me if you need anything.

· **Blackboard:** We will *not* be using Blackboard. You will spend most of your time outside of class in MML or [www.stlmath.com](http://www.stlmath.com).