Syllabus

# Beginning Algebra

**Vanessa Taavola**

**Course:** MA 090-02, 4 Credits

**Time/ Location**: 6-7:40pm/Whitman Commons

**Term:** Winter 2021

**Instructor:** Vanessa Taavola **E-Mail:** vtaavola@nmu.edu **Phone:** 906-361-7788 (text only)

**T.A.:** Piper Strehlow **E-Mail:** pstrehlo@nmu.edu

**Office Hours:** I will be available for office hours through zoom. I will also be able to meet you in our classroom before and/or after class beginning at 5:30pm. Just let me know if you need to meet.at an additional time.

**Required Supplies:** Aleks 360 access code, 18 weeks Higher Education, ebook included. YOU DO NOT NEED TO PURCHASE THE TEXTBOOK; it’s included online with Aleks and also on reserve in the library.

Websites used regularly in this class:

Educat: [educat.nmu.edu](http://educat.nmu.edu) Course documents, gradebook, discussion forums

Aleks: [**www.aleks.com**](http://www.aleks.com) Homework, computation quizzes, practice exams, exams, ebook

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

MA090 Beginning Algebra: The study of linear expressions and equations, inequalities, polynomials, factoring, and an introduction to quadratic expressions and equations. Emphasis on factoring.

1. Solve linear equations in one variable, including clearing fractions and decimals
2. Solve and graph linear inequalities in one variable. Use interval notation
3. Graph and interpret linear equations, including the slope, y-intercept, x and y intercepts
4. Determine equations of lines given minimal information from one or two points, slope, and/or a parallel or perpendicular line
5. Solve systems of linear equations
6. Apply exponent rules to algebraic expressions
7. Use order of operations to simplify and perform operations on algebraic expressions
8. Factor the GCF from polynomials
9. Factor four-term polynomial by grouping
10. Factor quadratic equations using the AC-method, including when the lead coefficient is greater than one
11. Factor the difference of two squares
12. Factor perfect square trinomials
13. Factor the sum and difference of cubes
14. Solve equations using the zero product property
15. Solve applied problems such as applications of linear equations, system of linear equations, Pythagorean Theorem, geometry, mixture, and quadratic equations

**Prerequisites:** C- grade or better in **OC080** or satisfactory score on math placement exam.

**Technical skills:** Student must be able to navigate websites including Educat & Aleks. They must use and check their @nmu.edu email daily.

**Technology requirements:** Computer with internet access and a scientific calculator

G**rades:** Grades are based on the following scale

90-100% A

80-89% B

70-79% C

60-69% D

0-59% F

**Your grade has the following components:**

Study Skills 5%

Aleks Homework 10%

Quizzes 10%

Practice Exams 5%

Exams 40%

Final Exam 30%

Extra Credit Aleks Pie + up to 5%

Study Skills: Study skills will be taught in this class. You will have written assignments on this. I am trying to help prepare you for all of your current and future classes at NMU.

Aleks Homework: Homework is done in Aleks. You have unlimited attempts until the due date and time. The Aleks program will not allow you to work beyond the due date and time.

Quizzes: In class

Practice Exams: Take in Aleks program. These are longer than the exams (about double the length) Show work for every problem on your own paper. Number every problem, and keep your work tidy. **They are due at 5 p.m. on the day of each exam.**

Exams: These will be done on Aleks in class. You must submit all of your work after completing each exam.

Final exam: This is not done in the Aleks program. It will be a paper and pencil exam, although COVID has changed this plan in the past. ☺

For written work (quizzes, exams, and final exams) you are graded not only on correctness, but also on clarity of work. If I can’t read your writing, then a correct answer **will not** get you full credit. You must show all steps. Just giving the answer will not earn full credit. Word problems can often be solved by just “thinking” about it, but you must show me why. ☺

**TA:** Piper will meet with you individually. Just email or talk to her in class. Her job is to help improve student success.

**Disability needs:** If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock Building (227-1700). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines. Here is the website for disability services: <http://www.nmu.edu/disabilityservices/node/1>

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to do their own work and follow the university academic honesty policy. This policy can be found in the student handbook. See link here: <http://www.nmu.edu/dso/studenthandbook>

**Late work:** You can get a “free” extension on any one homework assignment. You must message Piper, and she will extend the due date by one week. If you need extensions on additional assignments, message Piper for the extra week, but you will lose 5 points on your study skills grade. Math is a building block, and it’s important that you don’t fall behind.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Drop:** Last day to drop a class with no course record is January 29th by 5 pm. Drop procedure: <http://www.nmu.edu/records/adddropprocedure>

**Withdrawals:** Last day for course withdrawal is March 26th by 5 pm. I will recommend withdrawal for any student earning below 60%. A W grade and an F grade have the same effect on your full time status. The difference is that an F grade hurts your GPA, but a W grade does not. It always benefits you to get a W, instead of an F. Withdrawal procedure: <http://www.nmu.edu/records/node/19>

**Extra Resources:** Beginning & Intermediate algebra; Miller, J; O'Neill, M; Hyde, N

is on reserve in the library. It is at the front counter and is listed under Barnsley. The textbook is 2-hour reserve (students have to use it in the library).

Privacy Statement and Accessibility for www.aleks.com <https://www.aleks.com/privacy_statement>.

<https://www.aleks.com/highered/math/accessibility>

Privacy Statement and Accessibility for www.zoom.us <https://zoom.us/privacy>, <https://zoom.us/accessibility>

Technical support with Aleks: <https://mhedu.force.com/aleks/s/>

There are many resources available to help you succeed in this class and as a student.

Student Handbook:<https://www.nmu.edu/dso/studenthandbook>

Health Center <http://webb.nmu.edu/HealthCenter/>

Online Student Services <http://www.nmu.edu/online/>

Computer Help Desk (IT) <http://it.nmu.edu/helpdesk>

[D](http://www.nmu.edu/disabilityservices/home-page)isability Services <http://www.nmu.edu/disabilityservices/home-page>

Veterans Services <http://www.nmu.edu/veterans/veteran-student-services>

Dean of Students <http://www.nmu.edu/dso/home-page>

Olson Library <http://library.nmu.edu/>

Counseling Center <http://www.nmu.edu/counselingandconsultation/home-page>

Writing Center <http://www.nmu.edu/writingcenter/home-page>

Financial Aid <http://www.nmu.edu/financialaid/home>