

Syllabus
Beginning Algebra
MA 090, 4 Credits

Time/Location: Section 03 (12533) 11:00-11:50 MCLIN 122

Term: Winter 2025

Instructor: Mrs. Jennifer Vollenweider (Mrs. V)

E-Mail: jvollenw@nmu.edu

Phone: (906) 227-2353

Office Hours: JAMR 2219: M-Th: 8:15-9:00

M, W, Th: 11:00-11:50

*Additional times by appointment

Required Supplies: Aleks 360 access code, 18 weeks Higher Education, ebook included

Optional Textbook: Beginning and Intermediate Algebra, 5e, Miller, O'Neill, Hyde

Websites for this class:

Educat: educat.nmu.edu Course documents, gradebook, discussion forums

Aleks: www.aleks.com Homework, computation quizzes, practice exams, exams, ebook

Course Description: The study of linear expressions and equations, inequalities, polynomials, factoring, and an introduction to quadratic expressions and equations. Emphasis on factoring.

Course Goals and Purpose: This course aims to help students build a secure foundation in algebra skills through meaningful contextual problems and situations and to develop skills that will help students succeed in a college level math class.

Student Learning Outcomes for Beginning Algebra:

Course Learning Outcomes

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 line 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 polynomials by grouping
10. Factor quadratic equations using the AC-method, including when the leading 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, systems of linear equations, Pythagorean Theorem, geometry, mixture, uniform motion, and quadratics

Prerequisites: Placement Exam or OC080 (C- or better)

Technology requirements: Computer with internet access, scientific calculator. *Does not have to be a graphing calculator. Students must be able to navigate websites Including Educat and Aleks. They must use and check their @nmu.edu email daily. Students must know how to use a scanner to scan a multiple page document into one PDF and post this document into Educat. Camscanner or Adobe Scan are apps that may be used for smartphones.

Grades: Grades are based on the following scale

93-100%	A	80-83%	B-	67-69%	D+
90-92%	A-	77-79%	C+	64-66%	D
87-89%	B+	74-76%	C	60-63%	D-
84-86%	B	70-73%	C-	0-59%	F

Your grade has the following components:

Attendance/Participation:	5%
Aleks Homework	10%
Quizzes	15%
Exams	40%
Final Exam	30%

Attendance: Your attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. If you are 1-5 minutes late, you will be marked tardy. Being later than 5 minutes past the beginning of class will count as an absence. Extenuating circumstances may excuse your attendance—these circumstances would include student athlete travels (athletic absences must be submitted at least two weeks in advance) or medical absences (please include documentation). Communicate with me if you have questions or concerns about an absence.

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. If you require additional time, you may discuss with the teacher or TA about granting an extension.

Quizzes: Completed during scheduled class time using paper and pencil; notes are allowed.

Exams: Completed during scheduled class time using paper and pencil; no notes or supplemental materials allowed.

Final exam: More details to follow.

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 or there is no work shown, then a correct answer will **not** get you full credit. You must show all steps. Just giving the answer will not earn full credit.

Communication with classmates and teacher:

- Always remember to use professional language, spelling, and punctuation within electronic communications. No abbreviations or sarcasm. When communicating electronically, people cannot necessarily interpret sarcasm and may not know abbreviations/acronyms.
- Communication via e-mail must be done through your NMU address. The teacher will **not** respond to communication sent from any other e-mail addresses. Please remember that you should address me in a professional manner (i.e. Mrs. Vollenweider or Mrs. V) and sign using your full name. Please also include the class time that you are in in the subject line, as I teach multiple sections and it is easier for me to access your information.

General Student Expectations:

- Computers are to remain closed unless instructed to open them by the teacher.
- There are no cell phones allowed in class. They should not be visible (this includes having them face-down on the table—they are still a distraction) and should be silenced (not simply set on vibrate). This is a good rule of thumb preparing you for the professional world. If a cell phone is out during class time, you will be given one warning, and after that you will be asked to leave class.
- Headphones/earbuds may be allowed on a limited basis. If you have “work time” in class, you may listen to music as you choose. They are prohibited during lecture times. You will receive one warning and then be asked to leave class.

***My classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect. In this course, each voice has something of value to contribute. Please take care to respect the different experiences, beliefs, and values expressed by students, faculty and staff.**

TA: Your TA is here to help support you and your learning throughout the semester. Her name is Delany Frank and is here to help you succeed. Do not hesitate to reach out. Delany can be reached at dfrank@nmu.edu. Delany’s office hours and locations will be posted and kept updated in Educat.

Additional Support: Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or the TA if you are confused or feel yourself falling behind. We want you to learn and be successful in this course. Office hours are available for your benefit. Sometimes 10 minutes of one-on-one time helps you more than 50 minutes in a full classroom.

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 (227-1737 or disserv@nmu.edu). 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.

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>

Important dates:

Add: Last day to add a class is **Thursday, January 16 by 5:00 pm.**

Drop: Last day to drop a class with no course record and 100% refund is **Tuesday, January 21, 5:00 pm.** Drop procedure: <http://www.nmu.edu/records/adddropprocedure>

Withdrawals: Last day for course withdrawal is **Friday, April 25, 5:00 pm.** I recommend withdrawal for any student earning below 60%. A W grade and an F grade have the same effect on your full time status and may affect your financial aid. The difference is that an F grade affects 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>

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