

# CONCEPTS OF MATHEMATICS I

MATH 1350.001 | SPRING 2025

## Course Description

When you see a word problem on a test, do you confidently start the problem, sure of your abilities to solve it? Or do you groan inwardly and skip it in the hope the next problem is easier? Do you know people who are terrified of word problems? Do they wildly guess an answer or simply skip the problem entirely?

As a teacher, you will be teaching problem solving. This includes solving word problems. In this class, we will study problem solving techniques and models. It is not good enough to know how to multiply. We must also recognize the real-world situations where multiplication is required. We will study topics in logic, set theory and conceptual foundations of basic number systems to give you the foundational basis to teach problem solving.

This course satisfies the Core requirement of Interdisciplinary Studies majors only. It has a prerequisite of MATH 1314 College Algebra or the equivalent.

## Website

You will be using Canvas. Go to [www.uttyler.edu/canvas](http://www.uttyler.edu/canvas) to log into Canvas using your regular patriots account. If you have enrolled in the course, you will have access to the website. You will find important documents, grades, lecture notes, and announcements on Canvas. In general, I will notify you by email and on Canvas if there are any disruptions or changes to our class.

## Textbook and Materials

We will not be using a textbook. All needed notes will be provided. However, if you would like to have a backup textbook, search for any textbook with a name like Mathematics for Elementary Teachers. All these textbooks cover the same material.

You will need a package of  $3 \times 5$  note cards. (Plain white or colorful)

**Instructor:** Dr. Deborah Koslover

**Office:** RBN 4010

**Email:** [dkoslover@uttyler.edu](mailto:dkoslover@uttyler.edu)

**Classroom:** RBN 3039

**Meeting Time:** MWF 10:10 – 11:05 AM

**Office Hours:** MW 1:15 – 2:15 PM,

TTH 10:10-11:00 AM and 1:15 – 2 PM or  
by appointment.

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*Attendance is mandatory and records will be kept. Notify Dr. Koslover in advance if you must miss a class, be late or leave early. (University Policy: Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. When a student has a legitimate absence, the instructor may permit the student to complete missed assignments. In many cases class participation is a significant measure of performance, and non-attendance may adversely affect a student's grade. When a student's absences become excessive, the instructor may recommend that the student initiate a withdrawal.)*

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# Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to

1. Demonstrate a proficient conceptual understanding of arithmetic, algebraic reasoning, and proportional reasoning.
2. Analyze and solve problems involving topics from number theory, including divisibility, primality, GCD and LCM
3. Use different models and algorithms for performing and describing arithmetic operations with whole numbers, integers, rational numbers, and decimal numbers.
4. Solve and explain problems involving proportional reasoning.
5. Analyze and troubleshoot samples of student work, being able to give proper feedback.
6. Give detailed explanations of problem-solving techniques for applications in elementary and middle school mathematics, as it pertains to the concepts mentioned above.
7. Identify the connections between the different mathematical concepts covered, with regard to elementary and middle school mathematics.



## Course Evaluation

The first thing that you need to understand about evaluation in this class is that the answers are worth almost nothing. You already know elementary school mathematics and should be able to get the answers to any question that I ask. However, this class is not about answers. It is about the **concepts and techniques** used to find the answers. Showing that you can apply these concepts and techniques is what you will be graded on. If you get an answer right on a test, but you use a technique different from the one requested, you will get say 0 or 1 point out of 10.

At the end of the semester, you will find your final grade on my.uttyler.edu. It will also be posted on Canvas.

A final course grade of

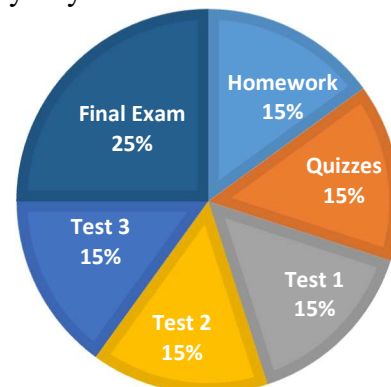
90% is guaranteed to be at least an A

80% is guaranteed to be at least a B

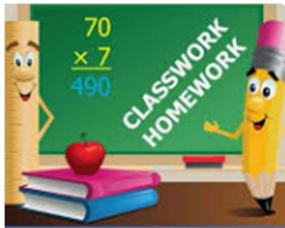
70% is guaranteed to be at least a C

60% is guaranteed to be at least a D.

All grades below 60% will be F.



# The Plan



**(15%):** Homework will be assigned each class period. Homework will be due on Tuesday night (or by 5 AM on Wednesday morning).

Homework must be turned on Canvas. A link will be posted on Canvas for you to submit your assignments. You must scan your homework and submit it as a pdf file. Some free phone scanners are posted on Canvas. Photographs will not be accepted.

Assignments done during class will be collected at the end of class. These assignments can only be made up if your absence is excused.

*Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted.*  
\_David Bly



**(15%):** There will be seven quizzes. Please see the calendar at the end of the syllabus for dates. The quizzes will be easier than the tests. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. If you have 3 or fewer unexcused absences, your second lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

*It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.* \_Albert Einstein

## TESTS (15%

These exams practiced on the emphasize material in the be held on February 5,

## FINAL EXAM (25%)

There will be three tests and a final exam. will test your knowledge of the material taught in the class and homework. The final exam will be comprehensive but will final weeks of the course. No tests will be dropped. Tests will March 5, and April 9.

*Success is dependent on*

*effort.* \_Sophocles



**Final Exam:** (Tentative) Wednesday, April 30 – 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM

**Please don't plan your travel to start before the date the final exam is scheduled!**

## Notecards

You should make *hand-written* notecards with **definitions, theorems, formulas and a few miscellaneous topics** which will mentioned in class. These will be allowed on all quizzes and tests. You are not required to copy all blue statements from the PowerPoints, just those you'd like to have available for tests or quizzes. You may **not** write sample problems or methods of doing problems on the cards. Cards will be turned in with tests and quizzes. If you have "illegal" information on the cards, points will be deducted from your exams.

# Make-ups

Make-ups for **documented** absences that are **required** as part of a UT Tyler obligation (e.g. athletes participating in an event, participating in a debate contest, etc.) or for religious observation will be granted. For all make-ups of this type, prior notification of at least one week and documentation are required.



Make-ups will be allowed for the following excused absences.

- 1) Illnesses, with a doctor's note, no exceptions.
- 2) Your child's illness, with a doctor's note.
- 3) Court appearances, including citizenship court, with documentation
- 4) Weddings, funerals or military advancement with documentation **and** a photograph showing that you attended the event.

Doctor's notes must be dated either before you miss the class or within 2 days after you missed the class, unless you or your child are hospitalized. In case of hospitalization, bring evidence of hospitalization.

Make-ups for test must be taken within 3 days after returning to class except for lengthy illnesses or hospitalizations

## Other important information

Now is the time to think about what grade you "need" to make in this class. Three weeks before the end of the semester is too late to realize that you are not on the road to earning that grade. There will be no extra credit or special assignments for any reason. No tests or quizzes will be dropped. Take this class seriously. Attend every session and study. Make use of my office hours and the tutoring that is available to you.

**Cell phones and other electronic devices:** Please set your cell phones to silent mode. If you are expecting an emergency call, please notify the professor in advance, sit near the door, and answer the phone outside. You will not be allowed to wear electronic devices (except hearing aids) during an exam. During tests, cell phones must be turned off and placed in sight on your desk.

**AI: AI is not permitted in this course at all.:** I expect that all work submitted by students for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

**Calculators:** Non-graphing calculators are allowed on all tests, quizzes and homework.

# Calendar

JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH			APRIL		
MON	WED	FRI	MON	WED	FRI	MON	WED	FRI	MON	WED	FRI
13	15	17	3	5	7	3	5	7		2	4
First Day				Test 1			Test 2			Quiz 6	
20	22	24	10	12	14	10	12	14	7	9	11
MLK Day	Quiz 1							EC		Test 3	
27	29	31	17	19	21	17	19	21	14	16	18
Census Day	Quiz 2			Quiz 3		Spring Break					
Homework Due Tues Night (Wed morning by 5 AM)			24	26	28	24	26	28	21	23	25
				Quiz 4			Quiz 5			Quiz 7	
						31			28	30	2
						Drop Day				Final Exam	

Extra Credit  
5 Points on HW  
For attendance 3/14

Final Exam  
10:15AM-12:15 PM