

Welcome to: Math 95 (section 04) with Mr. U.

Spring 2024, First 8 weeks

Instructor: Mr. Douglas Urbina (Mr. U.)

Email: durbina@uwsp.edu

Office: Science Building B348

Office Hours: M-Th @ 10-11am & 1-2pm

Class Times: M, Tu, Wed, Th @ 3:00pm

Class Location: Science Building A207

Final Exam: Room D101 on 03/14/24 @ 5-7pm

I will not be available on Fridays.

Modality of Course: This will be an in-person lecture course. I will allow time most days for questions relating to the material. Quiz days will be fully devoted to the quiz.

Course Description: Per the course catalogue, “Linear equations including graphing, exponents, radicals, function notation, and quadratic equations.”

My Goal: It is my goal to give you the tools needed to learn the outlined material, foster an appreciation for mathematics in the real world, reduce fear of mathematics, understand why it is important, regardless of your chosen degree, and foster a good-natured college experience. I also focus more on the computational portion of algebra that will serve you in higher level courses.

Required Text: Elementary and Intermediate Algebra 5th edition, ISBN: 978-1-111-56768-2, or 978-1-111-57827-5

Calculator: Due to advanced technology, there are only 2 options of calculators I allow in an Algebra course.

- a) A basic 4-function calculator.
- b) A scientific calculator. (Example TI-30)

Graphing calculators are not allowed. Cell phones are not allowed. Additionally see ACT’s prohibited calculator list [here](#), these are not allowed.

Grading: The course is split into 3 categories: homework, quizzes and a final.

Homework 20%

Quizzes 50%

Final 30%

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A) 90% and up B) 80% and up C) 70% and up D) 65% and up

Incompletes: A grade of incomplete may be given when circumstances arise which are beyond the student’s control, and which result in the student being unable to complete the course. A grade of incomplete will only be used if the student is passing when the circumstances arise.

Homework: Homework will be handwritten, turned in on a weekly basis. However, if you do your work on a tablet (still handwritten not typed), please print out the pages in a reasonably readable format. You should staple your sheets of paper together, have your name on it, have a label of the class and the homework number. If it was torn out of a spiral notebook, please remove all the fringy bits. I will only assign the odd problems out of the book, with the answers in the back of the book. I will be grading on the work you do, to go from the stated question to the answer. I am not looking for you to make an answer key, I want to see your work.

Homework can range from 50-100 problems, weekly. The homework is not meant to do all in one sitting, but you can. It is wise to work ahead and not wait for the night before it is due to attempt a 1-3 hour homework session.

Quizzes: I plan to give 3-4 quizzes. Since this is only an 8-week course with a final in the last week, that means about every 2 weeks we will have a quiz. Quizzes are no-partial credit, however after your first attempt is graded and handed back. You will have the ability to correct your incorrect answers (showing the proper steps) and get half the missed points back. I casually call these “corrections.” I will assign a due date for corrections to be turned in at the time I hand them back. Usually, I give about 1 week for corrections. This design is meant to help in the learning process, by allowing you to look through your work.

The Final: The final is the end of the class. The final will be given as a multiple-choice test. This is typically held in another classroom at a different time than our usual class. Please see the first section of the syllabus or refer to your Access Point.

Academic Integrity: At UW-Stevens Point and, in all courses, we place great emphasis on academic integrity and honesty. Plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, helping others commit these acts, and any form of dishonesty, compromise the educational process and devalue the achievements of all students. All work you submit must be original and completed individually unless collaboration is explicitly allowed. Always acknowledge your sources, cite appropriately, and give credit where it's due. If instances of alleged academic dishonesty are identified, appropriate actions will be taken in accordance with the institution's policies ([UWSP Chapter 14](#)). These actions could include revising the assignment, receiving a lower grade or no credit for the assignment, receiving a lower grade for the entire course, or facing more serious academic consequences.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is expected to assist in the learning process. It will be loosely tracked. When you are not feeling well, please take extra care to not spread germs. Good attendance is directly correlated to better grades. I expect students to be able to make 90% of our assigned class in person. (4 days a week for 8 weeks is 32 days. 90% of 32 days means you wouldn't miss more than 3 days in our 8 weeks together)

Suggestions for Success:

- Show up. The best way to know what I am talking about or asking you to do, is to see examples I work out in class with elaborations on some of the finer points.
 - Do the work. Homework and getting assistance working on homework is where a good portion of learning takes place.
 - Give yourself time. It is going to take time outside of class to do the work. A general rule for college is for each hour in class, you spend 2 hours out of class working on the same material.
 - Ask questions. When a problem does not go the way you think, circle it, and ask me in class, or office during my office hours.
 - Don't assume google can give you all the answers. Some of the questions I ask confuse online tools.
 - Seek help early on. Tutoring is available for free in 3 locations on campus. I have office hours available every day I am on campus. You could also form a study group. Ask your friends, roommates, classmates, hallmates, or even random people in the coffee shop to make a group to study.
 - The book is a good resource. The book has everything organized, examples and descriptions of all the steps in solving the assigned problems per the assigned sections.
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Inclusivity Statement: It is my intent that all students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity brought by everyone in this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity. I encourage you to make suggestions to this end. Please

let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

If you have experienced a bias incident (an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor regardless of whether the act is criminal) at UWSP, you have the right to report it using this link. You may also contact the Dean of Students office directly at dos@uwsp.edu.

DRC: UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire an impairment or injury during the semester and you need assistance, please contact the * Disability Resource Center as soon as possible, in room 108 of the Collins Classroom Center (CCC), at 715-346-3365, or at DATC@uwsp.edu. You may also want to visit their website, Disability Resource Center (DRC) - University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (uwsp.edu).

All students are expected to know the UWSP student responsibilities found on the Dean of Students webpage. Information on Academic Concerns is available at <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/stu-academic.aspx>. Information on Conduct Concerns and on Personal Concerns are also available on the Dean of Students site.

The Tutoring-Learning Center: (TLC) helps students in all disciplines become more effective, confident learners. We believe all learners benefit from sharing work with knowledgeable, attentive tutors. The TLC offers four service areas:

- **Academic Coaching:** Build skills in studying, time management, test-taking, online learning, and more by working with a peer or professional coach.
- **Course Content Tutoring:** Practice problems, deepen understanding, and prepare for exams in natural resources, STEM, world languages, and more.
- **Reading/Writing:** Brainstorm and refine papers, essays, lab reports, citations, résumés, scholarship applications, personal writing, and more using tutoring in-person or through our [Online Writing Lab](#).
- **Tech Essentials:** Develop computer literacy and learn to use UWSP-related applications such as Canvas, Microsoft 365, and Zoom.

All tutoring services are free to UWSP students. There are two ways to meet with our tutors:

- **Make a One-on-One Appointment:** Students can self-schedule using [Navigate](#), contact us at tlctutor@uwsp.edu or 715-346-3568, or stop into CCC 234. On the Wausau campus, contact wautlc@uwsp.edu or 715-261-6148. On the Marshfield campus, contact roleary@uwsp.edu or 715-389-6530.
- **Visit a Drop-In Tutoring Center:** No appointment needed! Students can view our [Drop-In Tutoring Schedules](#) page to see our availability.

I also reserve the right to make changes to the outlined syllabus above, throughout the course of the class, as I find pertinent.