

MATH-31 Section 27

Syllabus

Fall 2026

Meets:	Mon/Wed 04:00 PM-06:15 PM. Room: De Anza S16
Instructor:	Prof. Vadim von Brzeski. Call me Prof. V. Email via Canvas is my preferred method of contact, but you can also email me directly at vonbrzeskivadim@deanza.edu – you can email me anytime – I will usually respond in a few hours, but definitely within 24 hrs.
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 2:30PM – 3:30PM , or by appointment. Location: S54A MESA Center
Course description:	This course covers polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions, their properties and their graphs.
Pre-requisites:	Intermediate algebra or equivalent (or higher), or appropriate placement beyond intermediate algebra.
Materials:	1. Textbook: <i>Precalculus</i> by Jay Abramson. You can download the FREE textbook here: https://openstax.org/details/books/prec calculus-2e 2. Required: Working email account. 3. Required: Canvas access. Check Course Page on Canvas regularly. It will contain lecture notes and homework assignments.
Method of Instruction / Philosophy:	You do not learn math by reading or listening to math; you learn math by doing math. Each session will be organized into some lecture and some hands-on problem solving. However, that is not enough – you will need to spend at least 6-8 hours per week solving problems on your own.
Smartphones	All smartphones must be in silent mode and put away during lecture.
Attendance	Attendance is required . Students are expected to attend all classes, to be on time, and to stay for the entire class period. If a student decides not to continue with the course, it is the student's responsibility to officially drop the course. Attendance counts for 4% of your grade via In Class Problems (ICPs). Near the end of each class, I will post one simple problem for you to solve. Do the problem on paper and hand it in before you leave. The answer will not be graded for correctness – do your best – it will just serve as proof of your attendance that day.
Homework:	There will be 9 homework assignments . They are intended as practice to gain proficiency and prep for exams. Similar problems will appear on quizzes and exams. Assignments will be posted on Canvas under Modules → Homework . • HW will be graded for (a) neatness, (b) showing your work, (c) accuracy. However, only a few selected problems from each homework will be graded. • HW is to be turned in ON PAPER, IN-CLASS, by 4:15pm on the DUE DATE. LATE homework will NOT BE ACCEPTED.
Exams/Quizzes:	There will be 3 quizzes , each ~40 min long at the start of class . The quiz dates are shown in the Calendar . Quizzes will be closed book, no notes, no calculators , no electronic devices.

There will be **2 midterms**, each **90 min** long **at the start of class**. The midterm exam dates are shown in the **Calendar**. Midterms will be **closed book, no calculators**, no electronic devices, but **one 8.5" x 11" sheet (front + back) of notes** will be allowed.

The **FINAL exam** will be on **Wednesday Dec 9, 4pm – 6pm**. The final exam will be **cumulative**. The final exam will be closed book. Some notes will be allowed, but no calculators, no electronic devices are allowed. No makeup for the final will be given. **IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THE FINAL EXAM ON THIS DATE, DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE.**

MISSED MIDTERM/QUIZ POLICY: NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN. The *lowest (1) midterm and the lowest (1) quiz* score will be replaced by 90% of the final exam score (if the latter is higher). For example, if your lowest midterm score is 50/75, and your final exam score is 140/160, then since $90\% \times (140/160) > 50/75$, your second midterm score will be “upgraded” to $(140/160) \times 0.9 = 59.1/75$. Same applies to the lowest quiz score.

Grading
Breakdown:

	Quantity	Points Each	Total Points	% of Total
Attendance	20	1	20	4%
Homework	9	10	90	18%
Quizzes	3	30	90	18%
Midterms	2	75	150	30%
Final	1	150	150	30%
TOTAL			500	100%

Grading Scale:

Your grade in the class is determined by the total number of points you earn on attendance, HW, quizzes, midterms, and the final. **There will be no “rounding up” – don’t ask.**

If total points....	... then grade:
>= 485	A+
>= 465	A
>= 450	A-
>= 435	B+
>= 415	B
>= 400	B-
>= 385	C+
>= 350	C
>= 300	D
< 300	F

Expectations of
Students:

1. **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.** If a student is found cheating on a quiz or exam, or violating other codes of academic integrity, he or she will receive a score of 0 for the item in question. Repeated instances of cheating may lead to failing the course and further action. See the section on Academic Integrity in your current schedule of classes.
2. **Showing your work:**
 - a. You need to **show your work on quizzes and exams** to get full credit.
 - b. Your work needs to be **legible** – if I cannot decipher your handwriting, you will lose points. Neatness will also help correctness.
3. **Class conduct:** Any student who is disruptive may be asked to leave class. A student who refuses to leave the room may be dropped from the class and reported for

further action. **Students are expected to silence and put away mobile phone, tablets, etc.,** and should refrain from eating during class.

Important Registrar Dates: LAST DAY TO ADD: Oct 4
LAST DAY TO **DROP** (full refund and no record of grade): **Oct 4**
LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A "W": **Nov 13**

Students with Disabilities: For information or questions about eligibility, support services, or accommodations to disability (physical or learning disability) see the contacts below:
- Disability Support Services (DSS): Student Services Building (408)864-8753
- Educational Diagnostic Center (EDC): Learning Center West 110; (408)864-8839.
- Special Education Division: (408)864-8407; <https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/>

Student Learning Outcomes Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
• Investigate, evaluate, and differentiate between algebraic and transcendental functions in their graphic, formulaic, and tabular representations.
• Synthesize, model, and communicate real-life applications and phenomena using algebraic and transcendental functions.

Calendar

WEEK OF:	MONDAY		WEDNESDAY	
Sep-21	Intro / Syllabus	1.0 Algebra Review	1.1 Functions Textbook: 1.1	1.1 Functions Textbook: 1.2
Sep-28	1.2 Linear Functions Textbook: 2.1, 2.2 ** HW 1 Due **	1.2 Linear Functions Textbook: 2.3, 1.6	Quiz 1	1.3 Transformations Textbook 1.5
Oct-5	1.3 Transformations ** HW 2 Due **	1.4 Function Composition Textbook: 1.4	1.5 Inverse Functions Textbook: 1.7	3.2 Quadratic Functions
Oct-12	3.2 Quadratic Functions ** HW 3 Due **	3.3 Polynomial Functions	Midterm 1 (Lessons 1.x)	
Oct-19	3.4 Graphs of Polynomials ** HW 4 Due **	3.4 Graphs of Polynomials	3.4 Graphs of Polynomials	3.5 Dividing Polynomials
Oct-26	3.1 Complex Numbers ** HW 5 Due **	3.6 Zeros of Polynomials	Quiz 2 3.7 Rational Functions	3.7 Rational Functions
Nov-2	3.7 Rational Functions	3.8 Inverse & Radical Functions	4.1 Exponential Functions ** HW 6 Due **	4.2 Graphs of Exponential Functions

Nov-9	Midterm 2 (Lessons 3.x)		VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	
Nov-16	4.3 Logarithmic Functions ** HW 7 Due **	4.3 Logarithmic Functions	4.4 Graphs of Logarithmic Functions	4.4 Graphs of Logarithmic Functions
Nov-23	4.5 Logarithmic Properties ** HW 8 Due **	4.5 Logarithmic Properties	Quiz 3	4.4 Exponential and Logarithmic Equations
Nov-30	4.6 Exponential and Logarithmic Equations	4.7 Exponential and Logarithmic Models	Review ** HW 9 Due **	Review
Dec-7	Final Review (optional)		FINAL EXAM 4pm - 6pm	

Final Words of Advice:

1. **Attend all lectures;** do the in-class problems. **Every point counts.**
2. **Read the relevant chapters in the textbook,** ideally before lecture. Come prepared.
3. **Do not skip quizzes and exams.** With the above “missed quiz / exam policy”, there is no downside to showing up to an exam, even if you are fully not prepared.
4. Do **all the homework** problems. Quiz problems will reflect problems from past homework assignments.
5. **This course moves fast.** Try your best not to fall behind. **Seek help as soon as possible.**
6. Ask questions if you do not understand something in class. **Raise your hand and I will call on you.** I am more than happy to stop and repeat and explain.
7. **Do not go into an exam cold.** Do not try to wing it. **Study for exams by doing problems,** not just by reading or glancing over the book. **Check your work!** Do not turn in an exam early if you have not checked your work.
8. **Be neat** when writing math. Neatness can save you! Do not try to do all calculations on the same line, rather take the time (and extra paper) to re-write the equations if necessary.
9. Come to office hours if you are lost. If you cannot make my OH times, **email me to set up an appointment.**
10. Math and Science Tutorial Center provides free tutoring services:

<https://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/mstrc/> . Also check out the online tutoring resources here:

<https://deanza.edu/studentsuccess/onlinetutoring/>.

11. Additional resources:

- a. [Paul’s Online Notes: Algebra](#). Explanations, extra problems, and detailed solutions.
- b. [Desmos Graphing Tool](#)

YouTube Video Course: [Precalculus with Professor Leonard](#). Excellent video course if you miss a lecture or you just want to hear it again from a different perspective.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- Investigate, evaluate, and differentiate between algebraic and transcendental functions in their graphic, formulaic, and tabular representations.
- Synthesize, model, and communicate real-life applications and phenomena using algebraic and transcendental functions.

Office Hours:

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

PSME Village in S55 T

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

S54A MESA Center W