THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

COURSE BASICS

Course Number:	MATH 1320: CRN 12614
Course Title:	Mathematics for Social Sciences I
Credit Hours:	3
Term:	Fall 2026
Meeting and Location:	Asynchronous Online
Prerequisite Courses:	Math 0311 or placement by testing services

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Lesser (here's my rapped bio)
Office Location:	I have an office in Bell Hall 213, but for maximum flexibility of access for students in an online course, office hours will generally be held on Zoom.

Contact

Instructor e-mail: I strongly prefer that you send me a Message within our Blackboard Ultra course shell so I can keep messages related to this section of this course (since I teach multiple MATH 1320 sections at once) gathered in one place. However, if Blackboard is down, you may also email me at Lesser@utep.edu if you: (1) make sure the subject line is meaningful (not just one word like "question" or "quiz" or "1320", but something specific like "answer format on MATH 1320 Section 1.1 HW" so I have a chance of finding that message hundreds of emails later if I need to, (2) have the body of the email include your full name and our specific 5-digit CRN (it's at the top of this syllabus) because I teach multiple sections of this course and this will allow me to more quickly pull up your information if I need to, and (3) send it from your miners.utep.edu email address because it provides more security, minimizes the chance the UTEP server rejects it, and because I'm barred from discussing confidential information such as grades if you don't.

Replies to messages will sometimes be almost immediate and sometimes will require more time, depending on other commitments and student requests I am juggling. So please generally allow up to a full business day for the return of messages. You are welcome to send a message at any time, but be aware that messages I receive during evenings, weekends or holidays may not be attended to before the next regular business day.

Course TA:	the name and contact info for our TA are posted in Blackboard
Course coordinator:	Dr. Samantha Patterson at sjohnson5@utep.edu
Math Department:	mathdept@utep.edu

Student Office Hours:

Student office hours are a time where you can get individualized help from me. Student office hours are a time where the instructor or TA is available to answer questions about mathematics content or the course itself. During scheduled times, you may drop in without an appointment. You are not required to attend the sessions if you do not have questions. If you cannot attend during the scheduled time, you can send a message requesting an appointment (and be sure in that message to indicate times that would work for you).

Optional TA-offered office hours are expected to be available from a Teaching Assistant assigned to our course (as listed in a posted ANNOUNCEMENT in our Blackboard shell) and details/changes will be relayed via Blackboard (Message and/or Announcement/email).

Optional instructor-offered office hours are offered (using a Zoom link posted in our Blackboard course shell) by your instructor (to complement weekday help hours offered by MaRCS and our TA) from 8-8:50am on Sundays as well as by appointment.

Guidance for Optimizing Office-Hour Resources:

If your question involves general technology (e.g., an issue with a browser, connectivity, or Blackboard), contact the UTEP HelpDesk).

If your question involves accessing or navigating WebAssign, contact Cengage. Cengage offers Digital Course Support and Training resources, technical support (you create a support case), and 24/7 Phone Support (1-800-354-9706). Cengage offers extended office hours for UTEP students during the opening weeks of the course.

If your question involves prerequisite content, start by working through the corresponding PTL (Preparing to Learn) homework and associated resources, and contact the UTEP math tutoring center (MaRCS).

If your question is about a specific WebAssign exercise (and you've viewed the associated video and textbook material), contact the UTEP math tutoring center (MaRCS) or click '**Ask Your Teacher**' on the blue bar for the exercise you are struggling on, and our Teaching Assistant or I can see not only your question but also the work you did so far and respond to you within the WebAssign environment, which will be a much more efficient way to help you than all of us creating from scratch lots of separate messages outside WebAssign. Please note that MaRCS, your TA, and your instructor are not allowed to just give you answers or full solutions to your assigned graded homework questions, so be prepared to articulate your process and what piece of it is an obstacle for you, so that you can be helped with the concept and the process, not just the answer.

If you have sustained, lingering, or general content questions: contact our course Teaching Assistant, your instructor, or the UTEP math tutoring center (MaRCS).

If your question involves course policy, grades, other course concerns, major extension requests, or even big picture stuff about your major/career, contact me (your instructor). The specific Zoom link for office hour Zoom conversations is also posted in our Blackboard course shell. The default option of Zoom has several advantages: privacy (e.g., grades discussed in person could be overheard from a hallway), capacity (when more people have the same question than could reasonably fit in my physical office), flexibility (e.g., to accommodate everyone's busy work schedules by meeting outside normal business hours if

needed), and convenience (since it's easy to pull up and display material with a better view than would be possible in person if either of us felt the need for social distancing). You don't need an appointment to attend already-scheduled office hours, but if you know you'll be dropping in, try to give me a heads up by sending me a message or email (Lesser@utep.edu) 15 minutes in advance just so I can make sure my Zoom window is not temporarily covered up by, say, a window responding to a student's email. Remember, you are not required to attend office hours if you do not have questions. If you need help and cannot attend during the scheduled time, just send me several possible specific times/windows that would work for you so I can reply with which of those options works in my schedule for that week. Other options besides Zoom for live conversations by appointment could include an in-person conversation (when we both would be on campus) or a Microsoft Teams call or a phone call where I would call you at a domestic phone number at a pre-arranged time from my personal number (that will be blocked from showing up on your Caller ID, so you would have to be prepared to accept that call on your phone) or my UTEP office phone.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS

Textbook

Required

You must purchase the WebAssign access code and can do so from the UTEP Bookstore or from Cengage. This code gives you full access to the e-book (which is an electronic copy of the 8th edition of *Finite Mathematics & Applied Calculus* by Waner & Costenoble) and all of the graded assignments. (Note that you have a grace period of 3 weeks to make the purchase but even if you need the full grace period to save up the money for it, you can still enroll into WebAssign on Day 1 and have access during the grace period for free so that you do not fall behind.)

Optional

The e-book mentioned above is available as an additional purchase in hardcopy form, but the hardcopy textbook is optional since buying the required WebAssign access code already gives you access to the electronic version of the book, which students generally find is sufficient.

Calculator

You are required to have access to a calculator with a key or command for doing permutations and combinations such as the scientific calculator TI-30XIIS and even more preferable is a graphing calculator such as a TI-83 or TI-84. You do not have to buy a calculator if you do not already own one, because you can simply use a free online graphing utility and calculator such as Desmos Graphing Calculator. Tech Guides are provided in our Blackboard course shell to support your use of technology in this course and all forms of technology covered in the Tech Guides are allowed on homework, quizzes, and exams.

Online Components

You are required to have a WebAssign homework account.

You will also have access to other resources in Blackboard, see the Activities and Assignment subsection below.

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have consistent access to the internet and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari are the most supported browsers for both Blackboard and WebAssign. UTEP HelpDesk continues to offer you technical support at you can use

www.fast.com to test your Internet connection from your location and make sure your upload and download speeds are at least 1-2 Mbps.

The WebAssign platform is not optimized for doing coursework on cell phones, so you will need to have regular access to a computer or laptop that has reliable access to the Internet and lets you use the following:

- Microsoft Office (available for free through UTEP: UTEP Microsoft Office 365),
- Adobe,
- Windows Media Player or QuickTime Player,

Blackboard

Inside our Blackboard Ultra course shell, you will be able to find regular announcements and many course materials and resources that are not in WebAssign. Each chapter will have a folder where you can find a list of the assignments, lecture notes or PPT slides, videos, and other resources. Check out the resources reference page at the end of the syllabus for a list of currently available items. (Note that all graded work will be completed and stored in WebAssign.)

WebAssign

WebAssign is an online Course Management System of Cengage, the publisher of our textbook. WebAssign contains your grades, all assignments that count for a grade, and some additional resources not in Blackboard. You must have reliable internet to take this course. Use the instructions below to access and register for WebAssign using your official *UTEP email account*. **You will have a free trial of 21 calendar days from the start of UTEP's semester so that you are allowed and expected to log in and access your coursework from Day One**, but you are required to purchase an access code before the grace period ends on September 13, 2026 so that your access continues. (If finances are an issue, see the FAQ addressing this ASAP.) Please note that your class key is different from your access code. When entering the code, enter all the words and characters in the boxes appropriately.

Instructions to access and register for WebAssign:

To enter your course on WebAssign go to www.webassign.net and follow these steps:

1) Click on "Enter Class Key"
2) Enter the class key given by your instructor, be sure to include all three, four-character sections given including the "utep":

   utep #### ####

3) Verify the section number and instructor name, then enter your information. Please make sure that you use your UTEP miners e-mail (there are complications if you use a personal address such as Hotmail, Gmail, etc.) and remember the password you create.
4) The next time you log in, click on "Log In" and enter your *UTEP miners e-mail* and the password you created.

You are required to purchase an access code to log in as soon as possible and before the grace period ends. Please note that your class key is different from your access code. When entering the code, enter all the words and characters in the boxes appropriately.

Student Zoom Office Hours from Cengage

- Aug 11 - 29: 8 – 11 am and Noon – 3 pm MST
- Sept 2 – 5: 9 – 11 am and Noon – 2 pm MST
- Sept 8 - 10: 10am – 1 pm MST

Invite link: Invite Link Fall 2026

Cengage Technical Support

Cengage offers several support options depending on your needs:

Phone Support: You can reach them at **1-800-354-9706**. However, the exact hours of operation may vary depending on the type of support you need. They recommend visiting their Support Page for the most accurate and up-to-date hours.

Chat Support: Available **24/7** for student registration support.

Online Support: You can open a new support ticket or check the status of an existing one via their Support Page Portal

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Math for Social Sciences I is a pre-calculus course designed to cover a broad range of mathematical concepts.

At the successful completion of this course:

I. A student will be able to make meaningfully reflective connections between the mathematics of finance and the student's own situation and/or community engagement
II. A student will be able to apply fundamental set and probability properties to calculate the probability for a given situation and utilize this to make decisions on the likelihood of outcomes including the expected value of a random variable. (Chapters 7, 8, & 9.1/9.3)
III. A student will be able to model a situation utilizing an appropriate fundamental function (linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic) and solve for an unknown variable. (Chapters 1 & 2)
IV. A student will be able to validate a mathematical model algebraically and graphically, (Chapters 1 & 2)
V. A student will be able to model basic financial functions associated with interest, annuities, and loans and solve for an unknown variable. (Chapter 3)
VI. Students will be able to construct and solve systems of linear equations utilizing multiple techniques. (Chapter 4)
VII. Students will be able to construct and graphically solve systems of linear inequalities and linear programming problems (Chapter 6.1 & 6.2)

Activities and Assignments:

You will find all graded assignments on www.webassign.net. Please use Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari since WebAssign works best with these browsers. All graded work, including homework, quizzes, and exams, will take place through WebAssign. There are resources to help with your coursework in both WebAssign and Blackboard (see resource guide at the end of this document).

Three unit exams and a comprehensive finals week exam will be given. For each of the three unit exams, you will have an optional retake opportunity and only the higher of the two scores will be used. There is no retake opportunity for the finals week exam.

Wintermester:

If a student earns a grade of "D" or "F," they may register for the Wintermester workshop. A grade of 70% or better in the Wintermester course will replace a failing course grade with a grade of "C." A grade change form will be submitted upon successful completion of the Wintermester.

Resources (including Tutoring)

At the bottom of your WebAssign homepage, you can click on Resources and access items such as Cengage lecture videos and PowerPoints from the publisher for each section that we cover.

In our Blackboard course shell, you can access additional resources, including: short engaging lecture videos (made by UTEP faculty, also available at this YouTube playlist), tech guides, worksheets, PowerPoint lecture slides, multi-modal learning experiences, and an FAQ page for common questions.

The UTEP math tutoring center (MaRCS) offers free tutoring for math classes such as this one; their website has more information: https://www.utep.edu/science/math/marcs/

There are several useful features in WebAssign designed to give extra help on homework. These include links for "Watch It" and "Master It" videos, as well as Ask Your Teacher, and the new Student Assistant feature. These are publisher-created and are enabled for any homework question in which they are available (but are not enabled during timed quizzes and exams). The My Class Insights feature gives you a guide to how you are doing on the topics covered in the course.

Check out the overall resource reference page at the end of the syllabus for a complete list of resources.

Class Activity Settings

Homework Assignments (including Preparing to Learn assignments)

All homework will be completed on WebAssign. Since each question has 5 attempts, I recommend you seek help (e.g., from a “Watch It” or “Master It” video, the Student Assistant, a MaRCS tutor, or the Ask Your Teacher feature) after the third incorrect submission rather than waiting to get help until you are out of submission attempts. To ask a question about a homework problem, the most efficient way (much better than sending an email or Bb Message) is to use WebAssign’s Ask Your Teacher feature because it automatically lets us see the statement of the problem and your previous attempts and allows either the TA or instructor to respond to you so that whoever is in position to give you an answer faster can do so.

Some homework assignments involve prerequisite content to prepare you for future *course* content. These PTL (Preparing to Learn) assignments cover review topics (order of operations, exponent rules, etc.) and are intended to help you prepare for the upcoming lesson. PTLs have the same settings as regular homework (5 attempts, no time limit) and will count as homework grades, so be sure you complete them!

Quizzes

After each chapter covered, you will have a 60-minute timed quiz with five (5) questions from that material. The quizzes may contain problems you have not seen previously, but they will be based on the same concepts. See course Calendar for due dates.

Remember that once you enter the password, the clock begins and cannot be paused, so do not enter the password until you are ready to actually take the quiz. The password for each quiz is: **ready**

Each question has 2 attempts. If you choose to start a quiz less than 60 minutes before the due date, the quiz will conclude at the due date, and your answers will be auto-submitted. Be sure to keep an eye on your time to help prepare for exams (the per-question time will be less on an exam)

Reflection Quizzes

There are three (3) brief written reflection assignments throughout the course (1 per unit). These reflections ask you to extend course topics beyond what is covered in the book. The instructions and grading rubric can be found in WebAssign. Reflections count as a quiz grade, so be sure you complete them! Unlike other quizzes, Reflection Quizzes have no time limit and you may even open it and return to it at a later date. See Statement on ChatGPT and other AI in the Academic Integrity section.

Exams

To review for each exam, keep thorough notes about your homework and quizzes. You will see similar problems on the exam. The regular unit exams will be available on WebAssign for 48 hours before the due date specified by the course calendar and listed below and will have a link to an online scientific calculator. There are exams for Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3, and the Finals Week Exam. The finals week exam has special settings which you can read about below. You have two (2) attempts at each problem. You may use other online resources, such as calculators and graphing utilities, but be aware that the 'Watch It' or 'Master It' vidoes, 'Ask My Teacher', and Student Assistant features of WebAssign will not be available during exams. **During timed quizzes and exams, you may not ask another person (including MaRCS tutors), answer website (e.g., CourseHero, Chegg, etc.), or AI for help and it will be handled as a (possible) violation of Academic Integrity if you do.**

See Course Calendar for due dates The password for all exams is: **ready**

Exam 1, 2, and 3 is each timed at 120 minutes (i.e., 2 hours) once you enter the password to begin, but if you choose to start an exam less than 120 minutes before the due date, the exam will still conclude at the due date and your answers will get auto-submitted. Also, be aware of Cengage help hours, UTEP helpdesk hou, and your instructor's availability during the exam, so you can plan properly.

ORES for the 3 regular exams

Opportunity to **R**aise **E**xam **S**core (i.e., a retake), will appear on WebAssign after the original exam according to the class calendar and listed below. A retake opportunity is available for each of the three regular exams, but not for the final exam. For each regular exam, the better grade of the two will be recorded. You do not have to take the ORES exam if you are satisfied with your original exam score. (And if you completely forgot to take the original exam, you can still take the retake exam and it will be your score.) The ORES will be available on WebAssign for the windows specified below. The exam is timed at 120 minutes (2 hours) and has a link to an online scientific calculator. You will have 2 attempts at each problem. If you choose to start an exam less than 120 minutes before the due date, the exam will conclude at the due date and your answers will get auto submitted.

See the course Calendar for due dates. The password for all retake exams is: **ready**

If you choose to start an exam less than 120 minutes before the due date, the exam will conclude at the due date and your answers will be auto-submitted.

Finals Week Exam

The course finals week exam will be available for two days during UTEP final exams week, as noted in the Course Calendar. This is a comprehensive exam (i.e., it covers material of the whole course) and is required for all students. Remember, the final exam is worth 25% of your overall course grade. The final exam is timed at 165 minutes (2hr 45min) and will have an accessible scientific calculator. You may use online calculators and graphing utilities and your textbook/eBook. **You may not ask another person (including MaRCS Tutors) or answer website (e.g., CourseHero, Chegg, etc.) or AI for help and it will be handled as a (possible) violation of Academic Integrity if you do.** You have two (2) attempts at each problem.

See the course Calendar for due dates. The password for the finals week exam is: **ready**

Timed Assignments:

For all timed quizzes and exams, **the clock begins once you open the assignment** and won't stop for any reason, even if you log out. For this reason, it is your responsibility to choose a location with a stable Internet connection and check for any updates on your computer BEFORE beginning the timed assignments. The due date will change to reflect the time limit for timed assignments once you begin the quiz or exam. Please note: should circumstances beyond your control or anticipation prevent you from completing the exam or quiz in the allotted time, you may receive consideration if you promptly send your instructor a request for more time with a detailed description of what you did and what happened and include supporting documentation (e.g., a screenshot of the issue, an internet outage report for your area, etc.). See the FAQ item on technology issues for more detail.

Course Schedule:

A comprehensive course schedule is attached as the last pages of this syllabus. Semester highlights are included.

- August 24 — First Day of Classes
- September 7 — Labor Day (no classes)
- September 9 — Census Day (Last day to drop without a W)
- October 30 — Drop Day (Last day to drop with a W)
- November 26-27 — Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)
- December 3 — Last day of classes
- December 7 - 11 — Final Exams Week

Grading Policy

You will be graded on homework, quizzes, unit exams, and a finals week exam

15% Homework Assignments (includes PTLs), with 2 lowest scores dropped as a "safety net"
15% Quizzes (includes Reflection Quizzes), with 3 lowest scores dropped as a "safety net"
15% Exam I (or its retake, if better)
15% Exam II (or its retake, if better)
15% Exam III (or its retake, if better)
25% Comprehensive Finals Week Exam

Course letter grades are determined according to the following scale (where a score of, say, 89.51 would be rounded to a 90). Those wondering about possible extra credit should read the FAQ about it.

Grade	Score
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	<60

Drop Policy

The Drop Date for this semester is Friday October 30, before 5 PM Mountain Time (but to make sure it gets processed, do not wait until that afternoon to take care of it). No drops will be approved after this date or time.

Students who decide to drop the course must process their drop form from the Forms page and email it to records@utep.edu before 5 PM (El Paso time) on the Drop Date. Do not assume this will be handled by the instructor – the student must take care of this step. However, because sometimes there are periods where technology or people are temporarily unavailable, allow a cushion of 5 hours, if not days. Please note that the UTEP College of Science will remain aligned with the university and **will not approve any drop requests after that date**.

Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

How we will stay in contact with each other

Because this is an asynchronous online class, we won't be having in-person or regularly-scheduled group meetings. But this course has a fairly full schedule of deadlines to make sure you regularly put in time and there are several ways we can keep communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** as mentioned near the beginning of this syllabus.
- **Messages within Blackboard or Email:** as mentioned near the beginning of this syllabus.
- **Announcements:** Check WebAssign, Blackboard and your UTEP email each day for possible announcements or reminders of any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

Make-up Policy

Homework

An automatic homework extension can be requested within 2 days after the due date, but only if you have not already accessed or viewed the answer key to that homework. To make this request, log in to

WebAssign and click on My Assignments. Scroll to the assignment you want to extend and click Request Extension. Select "Automatic" and "Accept" the extension. The new due date will be 72 hours from the time the extension is requested. Note that this means that the **due date** may change to something other than 11:59 PM. No penalty will be applied to problems submitted after the original due date. All homework and quizzes must be completed by their arranged due dates and, in any case, before the opening of the window for the finals week exam

Quiz

A quiz extension can be requested (and will be approved without requiring you to give a reason) under these conditions: (1) that you make the request in WebAssign (click on My Assignments, scroll to the particular quiz, and click Request Extension), (2) that you make the request between the due date and 2 days after the due date, (3) that you have not already downloaded the quiz by entering the password (and WebAssign tells us if that happened), (4) that this is the first extension you are requesting for this particular quiz, and (5) that you check WebAssign multiple times each day (whether a weekday or weekend day) after you make the request so that as soon as the TA or instructor sees it and approves it and gives you a 24-hour window to take the quiz that you will see that extension in time to take it within that 24-hour window.

If you have some extenuating circumstance or have an excused absence that will keep you from completing the assignment or quiz in a timely manner, please contact the instructor right away (using Blackboard Messages or email) and be prepared to attach supporting documentation – such as a university travel letter, military orders, doctor/counselor note (which does not need to reveal your condition, just stating the days you were unable to do work), etc. All quizzes must be completed by arranged deadlines, and in any case, before the window for the finals week exam opens.

University-Sponsored Events:

These include events such as academic conferences or athletic competitions that may involve travel. You need to inform me of any scheduling or traveling conflicts of the event in advance (remind the UTEP office coordinating your participation to send me an email or letter with the information) and plan to make adequate arrangements to make up the missed material within one week of returning from the event

Exams

Due to fairness and logistical considerations, an opportunity to take an exam (or retake exam) outside of the designated window may be granted only in extraordinary circumstances such as severe illness or death in the family, and with appropriate documentation (e.g., counselor's/doctor's note, military orders, notice of participation in UTEP-sponsored events such as athletics).

Alternative Means of Submitting Work in Case of Technical Issues

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare before deadline in case there is a technology issue with the course website, network, or your computer. If you experience difficulties submitting your work, you may be able to get real-time help by contacting the UTEP Help Desk or the Cengage helpdesk (technical support or 1-800-354-9706), depending on the nature of the problem.

I also suggest you save your written work (since you are not doing all of your homework, quizzes, and exams just in your head) in a separate Word document or handwritten notebook as a backup as evidence you completed the work at the proper time. Then you can send me that backup document, along with documentation of the technological issue, such as a screenshot from WebAssign, a support case report

(from your contacting Cengage's tech support or UTEP's helpdesk), or a report/screenshot from your internet or electricity provider of an outage in your area. (See FAQ item on technology issues for more detail)

Quick Reference Table for Extension Policies

	Allowed to have accessed the answer key?	Allowed to have accessed the assessment?	How requested	When it must be requested	Length of extension	Penalty potentially applied to grade?
Homework	no	yes	Student activates AUTOMATIC extension in WebAssign	Within 2 days AFTER due date	72 hours from when requested (note: this may not be 11:59pm)	no
Quiz	no	no	Student requests extension in WebAssign	Within 2 day AFTER due date	students must check to see when 24-hour extension is granted	no
Reflection quiz	N/A	yes	Student activates AUTOMATIC extension in WebAssign	Within 1 day AFTER due date	24 hours from when requested (note: this may not be 11:59pm)	no
Exam	no	no	Automatic extension not available; student must relay documented reason to instructor	within 30 hours after due date	Decided by instructor, if request is approved	50%, if request is not timely or well documented

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to work toward the completion of the course assignments on a regular basis. This class has a lot of deadlines and material that builds on prior material, so it is NOT the type of course where you can ignore it for weeks and then assume you can take a Saturday and get all caught up again. Check Blackboard, WebAssign, and your UTEP email daily to make sure you see reminders and announcements in a timely manner. Attendance in this asynchronous course is measured by completing tasks in a timely manner. **If you go more than two weeks without working on assignments (and without appropriately letting your instructor know about your situation), the instructor has the option (but not obligation) to drop you from the course.**

Academic Integrity Policy:

The University policy is that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Consulting or contributing material related to this class to answer sites such as Chegg, CourseHero, etc., makes you subject to being reported to the Office of Community Standards as a (possible) violation of the Handbook of Operation Procedures (HOOP). Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents' Rules and Regulations. As you will be taking online exams this semester, please take a moment to review this list of activities considered cheating by the UTEP Office of Community Standards (OSCCR): Ways to Cheat

All students are expected and required to obey the law, comply with the Regents' Rules and Regulations, with UT System and UTEP rules, with directives issued by administrative officials during their authorized duties, and observe standards of conduct appropriate for the university. A student who enrolls at the university is charged with the obligation to behave in a manner compatible with the university's function as an educational institution.

Any student who engages in conduct that is prohibited by Regents' Rules and Regulations, U. T. System or University rules, specific instructions issued by an administrative official or by federal, state, or local laws is subject to discipline, whether such conduct takes place on or off-campus or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Chat GPT and other AI platforms

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become more easily accessible recently. We recognize there are useful functions of this technology and encourage you to use it ethically and responsibly for your academic endeavors. For example, it is fine to use AI to generate practice problems or examples or to use WebAssign's Student Assistant while working on your homework to help you learn a concept (be cautious assuming everything you get is correct – sometimes it isn't!). However, it would be inappropriate and academically dishonest to submit work on a timed quiz or test to be graded that was written or assisted by an AI program (e.g. Chat GPT or WebAssign's Student Assistant). Just like the other tools you have available to help you through this course, you'll need to consider when and how to use them to help you meet your learning goals. If you are in doubt, please consult the instructor or any guidance UTEP may issue.

Course Netiquette Policy:

All correspondence with your instructor, TA, and other students should be conducted in an appropriate and professional manner. Please be considerate of your tone and word choice when conducting correspondence.

Accommodation Policy:

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs,

services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at **cass@utep.edu**, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Military Statement:

Thank you for your service. If you are a student with the potential of being called to military service or training during the semester, you are encouraged to contact me as soon as you receive your orders.

Copyright Statement:

Course Materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Class Recordings

[While an asynchronous class does not have regular scheduled meetings, this policy would apply if we, for example, tried offering an optional live review session, recording it and posting the recording.] The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

COURSE RESOURCES

Where you can go for assistance UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Academic and Technology Resources

- **Technology Support Help Desk:** Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus, Academic Resources.

- **UTEP Library:** Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

- **Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS)**: Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.

Individual Resources

• **Military Student Success Center:** Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

• **Center for Accommodations and Support Services:** Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.

• **Counseling and Psychological Services:** Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Health

- UTEP counseling center (915) 747-5302, Student Health and Wellness Center (915) 747-5624
- El Paso coronavirus hotline (915) 212-6843, El Paso COVID-19 information,
- El Paso's 24-hour Mental Health Crisis Line (915) 779-1800
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline or Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255
- NAMI (National Alliance Against Mental Illness) of El Paso (915) 534-5478

RESOURCE REFERENCE GUIDE

Resource/Feature	Role	Location	Counts toward Grade?	Extensions?	Timed?
Homework	Practice concepts covered in course	WebAssign (My Assignments list)	yes	yes - Request on WebAssign (automatic extension) within 48 hrs after due date to get an additional 3 days; no penalty	no
Prepare to Learn (PTL) Homework	brush up skills just in time for when you need them; if you already have the skills, think of this as just an easy way to get a good HW grade	WebAssign (My Assignments list)	yes	yes - same as homework (above)	no

Resource/Feature	Role	Location	Counts toward Grade?	Extensions?	Timed?
Chapter Quizzes	Intermediate skills assessment similar to homework questions, but are timed!	WebAssign (My Assignments list)	yes	yes - request extension in WebAssign within 48 hrs after due date, then check frequently to see the 24-hour window you are approved to take it; no penalty	yes - 60 minutes
Reflection Quizzes	Writing assignments to expand on topics covered in the unit	WebAssign (My Assignments list)	yes	yes - same as chapter quizzes (above)	no
Unit Exams	Summative timed assessment to demonstrate skills similar to homework and quiz problems spanning multiple chapters and sections	WebAssign (My Assignments list)	yes	considered only for timely requests (no more than 30 hours after exam) with documented strong reason; 50% penalty for all other requests	yes - 120 minutes
ORES	Opportunity to Raise Exam Score (it replaces a regular exam's first attempt only if that helps your grade; can be taken even if you missed the first attempt)	WebAssign (My Assignments List)	yes (it replaces a regular exam's first attempt, but only if that helps your grade)	same as unit exam (above)	yes - 120 minutes
Finals Week Exam	Summative timed assessment to demonstrate skills similar to homework and quiz problems, but spanning all topics from the semester	WebAssign (My Assignments List)	yes	considered only for timely requests (no more than 12 hours after exam) with documented strong reason;	yes - 165 minutes
My Class Insights	Gives data on how you are doing in the class based on the topics covered in homework and quizzes	WebAssign (Class Dashboard, upper right)	no	n/a	n/a
Math Mindset	supports your success in the course by addressing habits relating to mind	WebAssign (My Assignments list)	no	n/a	n/a

Resource/Feature	Role	Location	Counts toward Grade?	Extensions?	Timed?
'Watch It' or 'Master It' videos or Student Assistant	demonstrates how to solve selected homework problems	WebAssign with select questions - available on homework not quizzes/exams	no	n/a	n/a
Ask My Teacher	Lets you ask questions where TA/instructor sees the exercise and your submissions	WebAssign in homework assignments	no	n/a	n/a
Full-Length Lecture Videos	Covers material in a traditional manner by section	WebAssign, under Resources	no	n/a	n/a
10-15 min. videos by Tuesday Johnson (UTEP Distinguished Lecturer)	Explains concepts and procedures for each topic (especially useful for asynchronous class)	Blackboard (within each chapter's materials) and YouTube links	no	n/a	n/a
Lecture outline worksheets	Notes and practice problems for each section	Blackboard (within each chapter materials)	no	n/a	n/a
Tech Guides	Explanations (with screenshots) of how to use technology with each chapter's tasks	Blackboard (within each chapter materials)	no	n/a	n/a
PowerPoints	Notes and examples about the content in each section of the book	Blackboard (within each chapter materials)	no	n/a	n/a
Games	An interactive fun alternative way to engage with concepts	Blackboard (resource for chapter 3)	no	n/a	n/a
Songs	A memorable, alternative way to engage with concepts	Blackboard (resource for chapters 4 and 7)	no	n/a	n/a
Concept Maps	Quick view of connections among chapter sections	Blackboard (resource for select chapters)	no	n/a	n/a

DUE DATES

Week	Assignment	Due Date **All assignments due @ 11:59 PM Mountain Time*** (WebAssign will display due date/time in your local time, so if you are not in the Mountain Time zone, you will need to mentally convert the due date accordingly.)	Notes
2	Getting Started with WebAssign PTL 1 Homework Section 7.1 and 7.2 Homework	Tuesday, September 1, 2026 Tuesday, September 1, 2026 Thursday, September 3, 2026	We recommend you complete these during week 1
3	Section 7.3 and 7.4 Homework Section 8.1 and 8.2 Homework Chapter 7 Quiz	Tuesday, September 8, 2026 Thursday, September 10, 2026 Friday, September 11, 2026	All quizzes have the password: ready
4	Section 8.3 and 8.4 Homework Section 8.5 Homework	Tuesday, September 15, 2026 Thursday, September 17, 2026	Free Access to WebAssign ends at 11:59 PM on 9/13. Make sure you purchase access before then!
5	Chapter 8 Quiz Sections 9.1 and 9.3 Homework PTL 2 Homework Chapter 9 Quiz Unit 1 Reflection Quiz	Monday, September 21, 2026 Tuesday, September 22, 2026 Thursday, September 24, 2026 Friday, September 25, 2026 Friday, September 25, 2026	
6	**Unit 1 Exam (Chapters 7, 8, 9)** PTL 3 Homework Section 1.1 Homework	**Monday, September 28, 2026** Tuesday, September 29, 2026 Thursday, October 1, 2026	**Opens Sunday 9/27 @ 12:01 AM** All exams have the password: ready
7	**ORES (retake) Unit 1 Exam (Chapters 7, 8, 9)** Section 1.2 Homework Section 1.3 and 1.4 Homework	**Monday, October 5, 2026** Tuesday, October 6, 2026 Thursday, October 8, 2026	**Opens Sunday 10/4 @ 12:01 AM**
8	Chapter 1 Quiz	Monday, October 12, 2026	

	Section 2.1 Homework Section 2.2 Homework	Tuesday, October 13, 2026 Thursday, October 15, 2026	
9	Section 2.3 and 2.4 Homework Chapter 2 Quiz Unit 2 Reflection Quiz	Tuesday, October 20, 2026 Friday, October 23, 2026 Friday, October 23, 2026	
10	**Unit 2 Exam (Chapters 1, 2)** Section 3.1 and 3.2 Homework	**Monday, October 26, 2026** Thursday, October 29, 2026	**Opens Sunday 10/25 @ 12:01 AM**
11	**ORES (retake) Unit 2 Exam (Chapters 1, 2)** Section 3.3 Homework PTL 4 Homework Chapter 3 Quiz	**Monday, November 2, 2026** Tuesday, November 3, 2026 Thursday, November 5, 2026 Friday, November 6, 2026	**Opens Sunday 11/1 @ 12:01 AM**
12	Section 4.1 Homework Section 4.2 and 4.3 Homework	Tuesday, November 10, 2026 Thursday, November 12, 2026	
13	Chapter 4 Quiz Section 6.1 Homework	Monday, November 16, 2026 Thursday, November 19, 2026	
14	Section 6.2 Homework Chapter 6 Quiz Unit 3 Reflection Quiz	Tuesday, November 24, 2026 Saturday, November 28, 2026 Saturday, November 28, 2026	
15	**Unit 3 Exam (Chapters 3, 4, 6)** **ORES (retake) Unit 3 Exam (Chapters 3, 4, 6)**	**Monday, November 30, 2026** **Saturday, December 5, 2026**	**Opens Sunday 11/29 @ 12:01 AM** **Opens Thursday 12/3 @ 12:01 AM**
16	**Finals Week Exam (covers whole course)**	**Wednesday, December 9, 2026**	**Opens Tuesday 12/8 @ 12:01 AM**