THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

COURSE BASICS

Course Number:	MATH 1508 - CRN 10681
Course Title:	Pre-Calculus
Credit Hours:	5
Term:	Fall 2025
Meetings & Location:	None – course is entirely online via WebAssign and Blackboard, Asynchronous
Prerequisite Courses:	Proper placement

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Maria Pia Beccar Varela
Office Location: online
Email: mpvarela@utep.edu
Office Hours: We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held virtually: WF 3:30pm-5:00pm, follow the link below, that is also posted in Blackboard:

https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/8468692182?pwd=aGRTZmxLdTdHQ1FoRXAyc0tSYTlFZz09

Student Office Hours:

Student office hours are when you can get individualized help from me. I can answer course content questions and address your class concerns. During scheduled times, you may drop in without an appointment. You are only required to attend the sessions if you have questions. If you need help and cannot participate during the scheduled time, please email me to schedule an appointment.

Office hours are only held during regular university scheduling. Please allow one business day for the return of emails. At the instructor's discretion, evening and weekend emails will be attended to during regular business hours.

Hours will be adjusted appropriately during off-scheduling periods (such as Finals week) or condensed scheduling periods (late start, closed university).

Supplementary Contact

Math Department: mathdept@utep.edu
Course coordinator: Dr. Julio Urenda - jcurenda@utep.edu

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS

Textbook

Pre-Calculus by Larson, 11th Edition (available as e-book and hardcover) with the WebAssign access card.

ISBN-13: 9780357457207 *(This is the ISBN for the WebAssign code for Larson/Precalculus 11e.)*

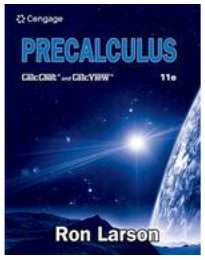

Image of Pre-Calculus Book Cover

Required

You must have the WebAssign access code. This gives you full access to both the assignments and the e-book.

Optional

A print copy of the textbook is available, but it is optional for the class. The e-book is adequate and comes with the required access code.

Calculator

A graphing calculator is recommended.

Online Components

You are required to have a WebAssign account and the Enhanced WebAssign access code.

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account works, you have consistent internet access, and you have a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari are the most supported browsers for Blackboard and WebAssign.

You will need to have regular access to a computer or laptop. There may be a need for more than just a cell phone for completing coursework. You will need to download and update the following software:

- Microsoft Office (available for free through UTEP),
- Adobe,
- Windows Media Player or QuickTime Player, and
- Java.

WebAssign

WebAssign is an online course management system used by Cengage, the publisher of our textbook. It is recommended to have a reliable internet connection to take this course. Use the instructions below to access and register for WebAssign using your official *UTEP email account*. You will have a 14-day free trial to access your coursework immediately.

Instructions to access and register for WebAssign:

On the first day of classes, 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 sections shown:

   utep XXXXXXXXX

3) Verify the section number and instructor name, then enter your information. Please use your official UTEP Miner's email and remember the password you created.
4) The next time you log in, click "Log In" and enter your *UTEP Miner's e-mail* and the password you created.

You must purchase an access code to log in as soon as possible and before the grace period ends. If you bought a new book from the UTEP bookstore, the code should have been included with it. When entering the code, please enter all the words and characters in the boxes correctly.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to clearly understand the ideas of Precalculus, which will serve as a solid foundation for subsequent courses in mathematics and other disciplines, and directly apply them to real-life situations.

The entire course's content covers topics from fundamental mathematics and develops them using practical and theoretical tools, building applications, and providing strong support for univariate calculus.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

I. internalize the concept of function in general while recognizing and manipulating the following classes of univariate functions and their inverses, where applicable:
   a. exponential
   b. polynomial
   c. rational
   d. trigonometric

II. Identify and solve systems of linear and nonlinear equations and inequalities.

III. Perform elementary matrix operations and relate them to solving linear problems.

IV. Identify the applicability and use of mathematical induction.

V. Familiarize yourself with trigonometry and apply it to solve problems in science and engineering.

Activities and Assignments:

You will find all assignments on www.webassign.net. Please use Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari since WebAssign works best with these browsers. All work, including homework, quizzes, exams, and workshops, will occur through WebAssign.

Three exams, with retake options, will be given.

Resources:

You will have access to PowerPoint and video resources through the Resources section of WebAssign. You can click on "Resources" at the bottom of your WebAssign homepage to access PowerPoint lectures from the publisher and Cengage lecture videos for each section we cover.

Tutoring

The MaRCS tutoring center offers free tutoring for math classes; more information can be found on their website at https://www.utep.edu/science/math/marcs/.

Several valuable features in WebAssign are designed to provide extra help. These include “Watch it” and “Master it” links, which were publisher-created and enabled for every homework question for which they are available.

I am also available during office hours to assist with any questions you may have.

Website

UTEP Math 1508 website: http://www.math.utep.edu/classes/precalculus/

Class Activity Settings

Homework Assignments

All homework will be completed on WebAssign. Each question has five attempts. I recommend getting help after the third incorrect submission, rather than waiting until you have exhausted your attempts to seek assistance.

The Ask Your Teacher feature of WebAssign is the best way to ask questions about your homework, as it shows me the entire problem. You are encouraged to use this as your first contact method whenever you have homework questions.

Quizzes

After a few homework sections, you will have a timed quiz on that material. These questionnaires may contain problems you have yet to see, but they will be based on the concepts developed in the course.

The password for all quizzes is the word **ready**.

Each question has three attempts. If you choose to start a quiz less than the time window before the due date, the quiz will conclude at the due date, and your answers will be auto-submitted.

Exams

An exam review will be available on WebAssign a few days before the exam date. The exam review is a homework score, so complete it promptly. The exams will be available on WebAssign for 24 hours on the date specified in the course calendar, listed below. The exam is timed and will have an accessible scientific calculator. You have two attempts at each problem.

Exam 1	**Friday, September 26, 2025**
Exam 2	**Friday, October 31, 2025**
Exam 3	**Friday, December 5, 2025**

The password for all exams is the word ***ready***.

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

Retake Exams

A retake exam for improvement will appear on WebAssign after the initial exam, according to the class calendar and listed below. The best grade of the two will be recorded. You do not have to retake the exam if you are satisfied with your original score. **The rules for exams and retake exams are identical.** Their due dates are listed below:

Exam Retake 1	**Monday, September 29, 2025**
Exam Retake 2	**Monday, November 3, 2025**
Exam Retake 3	**Monday, December 8, 2025**

The password for all retake exams is the word **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.

Workshop:

**********BEGIN ONLINE WORKSHOP INFORMATION**********

The workshop consists of three WebAssign assignments, Workshop Assignments 1, 2, and 3, which are uniformly distributed throughout the course.

**********END ONLINE WORKSHOP INFORMATION**********

Timed Assignments:
For all timed assignments, the clock begins once you open the assignment. **This clock will not stop for any reason**, not even if you log out. For this reason, it is essential to check for any updates on your computer before beginning the timed assignments. The due date will be adjusted to reflect the time limit for timed tasks once you start the quiz or exam.

Course Schedule:

This syllabus includes a comprehensive course schedule. For a complete academic calendar, please see the following link.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on homework, quizzes, workshops, and exams.

Assessment	**Percentage**
Homework	10%

Quizzes	10%
Workshop	5%
Exams (three in total)	25% each

Letter grades are determined according to the following range:

Letter Grade	Range
A	Greater than or equal to 90
B	Greater than or equal to 80 but less than 90
C	Greater than or equal to 70 but less than 80
D	Greater than or equal to 60 but less than 70
F	Less than 60

Drop Policy

The Drop Date for this semester is October 31 before 5:00 PM Mountain Time. No drops will be approved after this date or time.

Students who decide to drop the course must process a drop form by emailing their miners' email accounts to records@utep.edu. Please note that the 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 to complete the work within the deadlines.

COURSE COMMUNICATION:

How will we stay in contact with each other?

Because this is an online class, we won't see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are several ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held virtually WF: 3:30pm-5:00pm, please use the link provided above. You can also locate me with my UTEP email address.
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. Email me from your UTEP student account and put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, put your first and last name and university identification number.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard and WebAssign announcements frequently for updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

Make-up Policy

Homework

An automatic homework extension can be requested within seven days after the due date. To do so, 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 48 hours before the request for the extension. Note that this means that the **time owed** will also change. No penalty will be applied to problems submitted after the original due date.

You may not view the answer key to a homework assignment before requesting the automatic extension.

Quiz

Quizzes are not extended; they are available on their due date. If you have a conflict, please plan to take the quiz early.

If you believe you have an extenuating circumstance or an excused absence that will prevent you from completing the assignment or quiz promptly, please contact me immediately and be prepared to provide supporting documentation.

University-Sponsored Events:

These include conferences, student competitions, and other events. The student must inform me of any travel conflicts before they leave and make adequate arrangements to catch up on the missed material within one week of returning. Please do so to avoid the forfeiture of points.

Exams

A make-up exam will only be given in extraordinary circumstances, such as severe illness or death in the immediate family, and with appropriate documentation (e.g., doctor's note).

Workshop:

There is no makeup for the workshop.

Alternative Means of Submitting Work in Case of Technical Issues

You should submit your work with plenty of time to spare if you encounter any technical issues with the course website, network, or computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to homework, quizzes, and exams) in a separate Word document or hand-written notebook as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you need help submitting your work through the course website, please get in touch with the UTEP Help Desk.

As a last resort, you can email me your backup document. You must also provide proof of the technical issue, such as a screenshot of the WebAssign issue or an email from your internet provider confirming an outage in your area.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to work diligently on completing the course assignments daily. The completed tasks measure attendance in this course. Failing to complete tasks is equivalent to being absent from work.

Please complete assignments for several weeks to avoid being dropped from the course. You must regularly check Blackboard and your UTEP miner's email for announcements and the WebAssign Announcement section.

Academic Integrity Policy:

The University policy is that all suspected cases or acts of alleged academic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic 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, any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Each student is responsible for notifying and complying with the Regents' Rules and Regulations provisions, which are available for inspection electronically at https://www.utsystem.edu/offices/board-regents/regents-rules-and-regulations.

All students are expected and required to obey the law, comply with the Regents' Rules and Regulations, as well as System and University rules, and directives issued by administrative officials during their official duties. They are also expected to adhere to the University's appropriate standards of conduct. Students who enroll at the university must conduct themselves in a manner compatible with its function as an educational institution.
Any student who engages in conduct that Regents' Rules prohibit, Regulations, U. T. System or University rules, specific instructions issued by an administrative official, or federal, state, or local laws are subject to discipline, whether such conduct takes place on or off campus or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such behavior.

Course Etiquette Policy:

All correspondence with your instructor, TA, and other students should be conducted appropriately and professionally. Please be considerate of your tone and word choice when working on a post.

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 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 (ADA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship for the University. Students requesting 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 through the CASS portal.

Military Statement:

If you are a military student who may be called to service or training during the semester, 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 intended for students currently enrolled in this course and are exclusive to this course. They may not be further disseminated.

COURSE RESOURCES:

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

Academic and Technology Resources

- **Help Desk**: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Help Desk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person, if on campus, at the Academic Resources office.
- **UTEP Library:** Access a wide range of resources, including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks, 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:** This organization assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services**: Provides various counseling services, including individual, couples, and group sessions, as well as career and disability assessments.