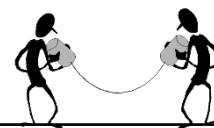


Welcome to MA 15300 College Algebra Online

Spring 2025 for 8 Weeks

Instructor: John LaMaster
Preferred Pronouns: He, him, his
Office: Kettler 264



How to Reach Me: E-mail: lamaster@pfw.edu ← preferred
Please use the following protocol when e-mailing me →
Google Voice: 260-267-0486
Office/voice mail: 260-481-5430
Math Dept: 260-481-6821
I normally respond within 24 hours (often sooner)
except on holidays and weekends.

- To make sure your email reaches me, include in the subject line your full name and course. For example: **Peter Parker, MA 153 Online**
- University policy requires that you use your university e-mail address to email me to protect your privacy. Please do not use your private email address.
- Please keep the topic about the class.

Office Hours: MW 11:00-11:50 in KT 218 Face to Face or through Zoom. Sometimes, I stay longer if students want my help longer, but since there is another class in there at 2:30 PM, I have to leave by 2:25.

Prerequisites: MA 111 with B- or higher or placement by departmental exam. This course is primarily intended for students who have completed at least two years of high school algebra

Course Website: Go to purdue.brightspace.com to access our course. Click on **Purdue Fort Wayne**, enter your PFW username and password, and click **Log in**. The suggested browsers are Chrome and Firefox. Please watch the [course tour](#). Explore and become familiar with the content and resources available in Brightspace.

Course Structure: Videos on Brightspace are best watched with pencil and paper in hand so you can work along with the class on the video. **Interactive Videos** are part of the course grade and require a response from you to proceed. Assignments, quizzes, and tests are completed using e-Homework (commercially called Möbius).



TIP: Keep a special section in your notes or a binder to collect any questions as you watch the videos and work on e-Homework.

You will also connect with other students in the class through our online asynchronous discussion forum.

Materials: In addition to notebook plus binder for organizing your notes, please see these three items.

1. **e-Homework**, commercially called Möbius, is required for all your graded homework, which has automatically been linked to your Brightspace course so you are already registered and can access Möbius from day one of the course. Good news! The cost of Möbius (\$20.00 per year) is a fraction of the price of what you would pay for My Math Lab (\$80 per semester) and Möbius has more features to help you learn. The \$20.00 license fee has been added to your tuition statement by the Follett's Bookstore. If you have already purchased a license for Möbius less than a year ago, you can opt out of the automatic purchase. (Check your university email from Follett's for information.)



IMPORTANT! Always enter Möbius through Brightspace! Otherwise the marriage between Möbius and Brightspace will separate and they will stop communicating with each other.

2. A **graphing calculator** is required for activities, assignments, quizzes and tests. The **TI-84 Plus** or **TI-84 CE Plus** are the *tools of choice*.
Note: You can rent one at Walb Student Union 225 (260-481-6586).
Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Yo! Optional!



Since all quizzes and tests are online, these free alternatives are also possible: [Wabbitt Emu](#)
[Desmos](#)
[Geogebra](#)

If you know of other free options, please share this info with me.

3. The **text** *Functions Modeling Change, 6th Edition* by Connally, et al. is **optional** but recommended. Some students have shared they did fine without a text and learned everything from doing eHW.



TIP: You can also use the 5th Edition or even the 3rd. We do **NOT** use WileyPLUS. You might find it for cheap online at [Chegg](#), [Amazon](#), [eBay](#), [betterworldbooks.com](#), and from [Wiley](#).

Recommended exercises out of the text will be given to deepen your understanding, but not required.

Objectives and Content: The purpose of this course is to prepare you for calculus. (If you do not intend to take calculus, a better course to take would be either MA 140 or STAT 125.They have higher success rates.) In this course you will solve problems presented as real-world situations by creating and interpreting mathematical models which include linear, exponential, quadratic, power, polynomial and rational functions. Solutions to the problems are formulated, validated, and analyzed using mental, paper and pencil, algebraic, and technology-based techniques as appropriate. MA 15300 meets all [eight outcomes](#) (3.1 to 3.8) in *Area 2: Quantitative Reasoning* of the Indiana General Education Core. We will cover portions of Chapters 1-6 and Chapter 11 of the text.

Grading:

Prerequisite Skills Quiz.....	25 pts.	(2.8%)
Participation: Community Building...	10 pts.	(1%)
Participation: Interactive Videos...	115 pts.	(13%)
e-HW Assignments.....	100 pts.	(11.1%)
Top 4 Quizzes @ 25 pts each	100 pts.	(11.1%)
Test 1	100 pts.	(11.1%)
Test 2	100 pts.	(11.1%)
Test 3	100 pts.	(11.1%)
Comprehensive Final Exam	250 pts.	(27.8%)
Total Points Possible	900 pts.	

Grading Scale:

90% -100% (810 pts. or more)	A
80% - 89% (720 to 809 pts.)	B
70% -79% (630 to 719 pts.)	C
60% - 69% (540 to 629 pts.)	D
<60% (Below 540 pts.)	F


Prerequisite Skills Quiz: This quiz provides quick and early feedback to you on your proficiency with the skills needed for this course so you know if you have the skills needed, if you need to brush up, or if you need to take a refresher course. Study the eHW assignment *Math Background Needed for MA 15300* (and its worked out solutions). There are *eHW Flash Cards* to practice.

Participation - Community Building: Post your self-introduction on Brightspace and submit the *Getting to Know You* survey, each worth 5 points. Some ways to earn +1 Rhino bonus toward your participation score: attach a photo to your self-introduction on Brightspace or post substantively to the **Piazza Discussion Board** (ask a question, answer another student’s question, or positively contribute to the class community by sharing a tip.) You can also earn +1 Rhino bonus getting caught being awesome.

Participation – Interactive Videos: Interactive Videos (found in the Weekly modules in Brightspace) require you to enter a response for the video to proceed. These responses are graded, but you can redo them as many times as you want and you keep the highest score. The average is scaled to 115 points, thus an average of 100% is a score of 115 out of 115. If your average score is only 90%, your score would be 103.5 out of 115, and so on.

e-HW Assignments: Past students cite eHW as the key to their success You have unlimited attempts until the due date and the highest score is taken. The average score of all your best eHW scores (@ 20 pts each) is converted to a percentage and taken out of 100 points. Please read the section on eHW in the **General Course Information** for help with how to use *eHW*. You are encouraged to complete the assignment **multiple times** (even after you have earned a perfect score).

Research shows that students who do this retain the material better for the test.




TIP: You have **unlimited attempts** until the due date and the highest score is taken. The average score of all your best eHW scores is converted to a percentage and taken out of 100 points.




- **Late eHW** may be submitted for some partial credit, but at a 10% late penalty, i.e. for late eHW, a score of 20 would be entered in the Brightspace grade book as a score of 18.
- **eHW Guarantee:** The question bank is well scrubbed; however, if you do find that your answer is correct and the system tells you otherwise (due to mathematics, not text entry) and you are the first to report it to me, lamaster@pfw.edu, I will gratefully award you double points for that question.



Quizzes: To help make quizzes a learning experience, you can **drop all but the top four quizzes** (except the prerequisite quiz, which can not be dropped). All quizzes are online through Möbius. Quizzes serve as “dress rehearsals” for the tests, so high performing students find they are worth their best effort even after earning four high scores. Since I take only the sum of the top four quizzes, there are no make-up quizzes.



TIP: See also the *Rhino Quiz Awards*  on the last page to earn bonus points.

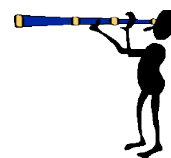
Tests: All tests are online through Möbius. Keep track of these dates in your personal calendar:

Test 1 (*Tentatively Sections 1.1-1.5, 2.1, 2.2*): Tues., March 25 – Sun., Mar. 30



Test 2 (*Tentatively Sections 2.5, 2.6, 4.1-4.5, 5.1-5.3*): Tues., April 8 – Sun., April 13

Test 3 (*Tentatively Sections 2.4, 6.1-6.2, 3.1-3.2, 11.1-11.3*): Tues., April 22 – Sun., April 27

Final Exam (*Tentatively Sections 11.4-11.5 and all prior content*): Mon., May 5 – Sat., May 10



Student Support: I want you to be successful. Please reach out if you need help. Below is a directory of resources for specific issues. If technical difficulties affect your ability to complete assignments, please notify me as soon as possible.

For help with:	Contact:	Contact Information:
General Needs	Academic Services, Technology Services, Health and Wellness, and Support from Administrative Offices	See the Student Support Services Website
PFW account/password/ Brightspace Support	Information & Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk	Call: 260-481-6030 Email: helpdesk@pfw.edu See the ITS Website
Troubleshooting eHW	eHW Technical Support	Email: ehwtechsupport@pfw.edu 
Graphing Calculator Rental	Student Government	Walb 225 or call: 260-481-6586 See the Calculator Rental Website
Using eHW (Möbius)	Check out the resource General Course Information in Brightspace first. Then see the Möbius Support Website for help.	
Tutoring	Online HERE and Face to Face tutoring in KT G19. I will put a schedule in Brightspace once it is available.	
Short-term Counseling (Free)	Campus Health Clinic	Call the 24 hour Hotline: 800-342-5653 See their Website .
Withdrawing from the class	Registrar	Directions are here .
How to succeed in MA 15300	Students enrolled in a previous MA 15300 semester	 See the tips they wrote specifically to you!
If you don't know where else to turn for resources, then contact the CARE team	See their Website or call: 260-481-6601
Accommodations for students with disabilities (See below*)	Disability Access Center (DAC)	Walb 113, 260-481-6658, See their Website .

*For Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of the Disability Access Center (Walb Union, Room 113, telephone number 481-6658) as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has provided you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, please visit the [Web site for Disability Access Center](#) (DAC) and refer to the [DAC Student Handbook](#).

Rhino Success

I believe in your success and want to support you to meet your goals.

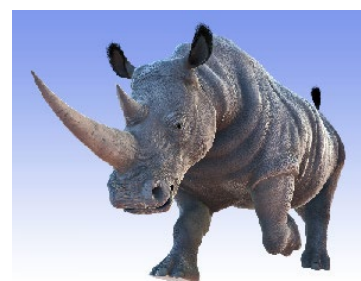
You can do it!

But it will require that you take charge of your learning, do the work required, and make the commitment to do what it takes to succeed.

If you want to succeed in life, be like the rhinoceros!

Wake up each morning and CHARGE straight ahead to accomplish your goals.

No obstacles get in the way of a 3 ton snorting rhinoceros charging at full speed!



Overall Course Schedule: The tentative course calendar on the next page provides more details about deadlines and may be helpful to see the big picture. The deadlines are also on the eHW (Möbius) Website and on the Brightspace Calendar and on this handy, clickable [Rhino Checklist](#). If for any reason you are unable to complete a test during the specified dates for reasons beyond your control, please reach out to me for help.

Overall Course Schedule

Schedule and assignments subject to change. Any changes will be posted in Brightspace

Topic	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
Week 1 (Mar. 16-22): Sections 1.1-1.5, 2.1-2.2 Linear Functions and the Average Rate of Change	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 19 Self-Intro on Brightspace due Getting to Know You Survey due eHW Syllabus Scavenger Hunt & Course Tour	Mar 20	Mar 21 eHW on Math Background due Prerequisite Skills Quiz closes	Mar 22
Week 2 (Mar. 23-29): Sections 2.1-2.6, 4.1-4.2 Function Properties and Exponential Functions	Mar 23	Mar 24 eHW0: General Course Info due eHW01: Chapter 1 due eHW02: 2.1-2.2 due Quiz 1 closes Quiz 2 closes	Mar 25 T1 opens	Mar 26 Quiz 3 opens	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29
Week 3 (Mar. 30-April 5): Sections 4.1-4.5, 5.1-5.3 Logarithmic Functions	Mar 30 T1 closes	Mar 31 eHW03: 2.5-2.6 due eHW04: 4.1-4.2 due Quiz 3 closes	Apr 1	Apr 2 Quiz 4 opens	Apr 3	Apr 4	Apr 5
Week 4 (April 6-12): 2.4, 6.1-6.2, 3.1-3.2 Transformations of Functions (Reflections, Vertical Stretches, and Vertical Compressions) and Quadratic Functions	Apr 6	Apr 7 eHW05: 4.3-4.5 due eHW06: 5.1-5.3 due Quiz 4 closes	Apr 8 T2 opens	Apr 9 Quiz 5 opens	Apr 10	Apr 11	Apr 12
Week 5 (April 13-19): Sections 11.1-11.3 Power Functions and Polynomial Functions	Apr 13 T2 closes	Apr 14 eHW07: 2.4, 6.1, 6.2 due eHW08: 3.1-3.2 due Quiz 5 closes	Apr 15	Apr 16 Quiz 6 opens	Apr 17	Apr 18	Apr 19
Week 6 (April 20-26): Section 11.4-11.5 Rational Functions	Apr 20	Apr 21 eHW09: 11.1 due eHW10: 11.2-11.3 due Quiz 6 closes	Apr 22 T3 opens	Apr 23 Quiz 7 & 8 open	Apr 24	Apr 25	Apr 26
Week 7 (April 27-May 3): Section 11.5 & Review Formulas of Rational Functions	Apr 27 T3 closes	Apr 28 eHW11: 11.4 due Quiz 7 closes	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 1	May 2	May 3
Week 8 (May 4-10): Final Exam Week	May 4 All late eHW closes	May 5 Final Exam opens	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10 Final Exam closes

All eHW, quizzes, tests, and the final exam are completed through Möbius. **They close at 11:59 PM on the day indicated.**

- You have unlimited attempts to complete your eHW Assignments until the deadline.
- To help accommodate any possible Internet outages, you will have 3 attempts for each quiz and each test.** You have 90 minutes to complete each quiz, taking the highest score. You have 180 minutes to complete each test, taking the highest score. The longer time limit is so you can take it unrushed. Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any issues that prevent you from completing your work. I encourage you to reach out to me.

Rhino Awards and Badges:



- Rhino Hot e-Homework Assignment Award:**
If you earn a 90% or higher on all of the e-Homework Assignments associated with the test before the date the test is given, you earn the Rhino Hot eHW Award for that test, which comes with a +1 Test Bonus Point and a blazing Brightspace badge.
- Rhino Quiz Awards:**
Earn a +2 Rhino Bonus on a test if you earn 90% or above (≥ 22.5) on each quiz over that test material, i.e., +2 on Test 1 if you earn 90% or above on Quiz 1 & 2; +2 on Test 2 if you earn 90% or above on Quiz 3 & 4; +2 on Test 3 if you earn 90% or above on Quiz 5 & 6; +2 on the Final if you earn 90% or above on Quiz 7 & 8.
- Rhino Syllabus Award:**
Earn a +1 Rhino Bonus on the eHW *Syllabus Scavenger Hunt & Course Tour* if it is a score of 100%.
- Rhino Key Contributor Award:**
Earn a +5 Rhino Bonus to *Participation: Community Building* if you post at least once to the Piazza Discussion Board in a way that supports others' learning.



You have reached (except for [this one more item](#) for those who choose) the end of this syllabus, and I am grateful that you took the time to read it. Thank you! I am looking forward to having an awesome semester together.