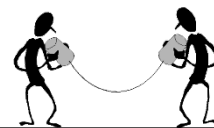


Welcome to MA 15400 College Algebra Online

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.

Office Hours: Mon and Wed in KT 218: 11:00-11:50 (and often until 2:30)
Also by appointment in person or Zoom [HERE](#).

Prerequisites: MA 15300 with C- 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.
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. Assignments 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: [Wabbit 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: This course emphasizes mathematical modeling of real-world problems using linear, exponential, and trigonometric functions. Topics also include vectors, parametric equations, and conic sections.. Solutions to the problems are formulated, validated, and analyzed using mental, paper and pencil, algebraic, and technology-based techniques as appropriate. We will cover portions of Chapters 7-10 and Chapters 12-14. Course goals are listed on the [General Course Information](#) document. Learning outcomes are listed in the lessons provided on Brightspace in the *Supplementary Resources* folders for each section of the text. See the *Flash Cards* on Möbius for assessment questions aligned to each learning outcome.

Grading:

Prerequisite Skills Quiz.....	25 pts.	(4.31%)
Participation: Community Building...	10 pts.	(1.73%)
e-HW Assignments.....	100 pts.	(17.24%)
Test 1	100 pts.	(17.24%)
Test 2	100 pts.	(17.24%)
Test 3	100 pts.	(17.24%)
<u>Comprehensive Final Exam</u>	<u>145 pts.</u>	<u>(25%)</u>
Total Points Possible	580 pts.	

Grading Scale:

90% -100% (552 pts. or more)	A
80% - 89% (464 to 551 pts.)	B
70% -79% (406 to 463 pts.)	C
60% - 69% (348 to 405 pts.)	D
<60% (Below 348 pts.)	F

Prerequisite Skills Quiz: This quiz provides quick and early feedback to you on your proficiency with the skills needed for this course. Study the eHW assignment *Math Background Needed for MA 15400* (and its worked out solutions). There are *eHW Flash Cards* to practice as well.

Participation: 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](#). Please reach out to me for help if your life is disrupted for any reason. I am here to help.

e-HW Assignments: 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. For example, a student with perfect scores on every eHW assignment earns 100 points; one who scores an average of 80% earns 80 points, etc. Please read the section on eHW in the [General Course Information](#).

Past students cite eHW as the key to their success.

You are encouraged to 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.



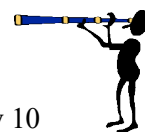
Tests and the Final Exam: All tests and the final exam are online through Möbius. Keep track of these dates in your personal calendar:

Test 1 (*Tentatively Sections 7.1-7.3 and Special Angles*): Tues., March 25 – Sun., Mar. 30



Test 2 (*Tentatively Sections 7.4-7.8, 8.1-8.2, 9.1*): Tues., April 8 – Sun., April 13

Test 3 (*Tentatively Sections 9.2-9.4, 10.1-10.2, 12.1-12.3, 13.1-13.2*): Tues., April 22 – Sun., April 27

Final Exam (*Tentatively Sections 13.3-13.4, 14.1-14.4 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
eHW (Möbius) Purchasing an eHW access code	Digital Ed Customer Support	1-833-450-2211 Email: support@digitaled.com 
Troubleshooting eHW	eHW Technical Support	Email: ehwtechsupport@pfw.edu
Graphing Calculator Rental	Student Government	Walb 225 or call: 260-481-6586 See the Graphing Calculator Rental Website
Using eHW	Check out the resource General Course Information for MA 15300 and MA 15400 first. Then see the Möbius Support Website for help.	
Tutoring	Online HERE and Face to Face tutoring in KT G19 for those able to come to PFW.	
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 15400	Students enrolled in a previous MA 15400 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*	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](#).

We Are in this together: 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. I am here for you and want you to succeed.

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 7.1-7.4 Periodic Functions and the Sine Function (with its Sidekick, Cosine)	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 19 Self-Introduction on Brightspace due Getting to Know You Survey due eHW0: General Course Info due eHW Syllabus Scavenger Hunt & Course Tour	Mar 20	Mar 21 eHW on Math Background due eHW 01 Sections 7.1-7.2 Prerequisite Skills Quiz closes	Mar 22
Week 2 (Mar. 23-29): Sections 7.5-7.8 Graphs of Sine and Cosine Functions	Mar 23	Mar 24 eHW 02 Section 7.3-7.4 eHW 03 Special Angles	Mar 25 T1 opens	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29
Week 3 (Mar. 30-Apr 5): Sections 8.1, 8.2, 9.1 Solving Triangles & Solving Trig Equations Graphically	Mar 30 T1 closes	Mar 31 eHW 04 Section 7.5	Apr 1	Apr 2	Apr 3	Apr 4	Apr 5
Week 4 (April 6-12): Sections 9.2-9.4, 10.1-10.2, Analytical Trigonometry & Function Composition/Decomposition, Inverses	Apr 6	Apr 7 eHW 05 Section 7.6-7.8 eHW 06 Section 8.1-8.2, 9.1	Apr 8 T2 opens	Apr 9	Apr 10	Apr 11	Apr 12
Week 5 (April 13-19): Sections 12.1-12.3 ? 13.1-13.2 Vectors and Sequences	Apr 13 T2 closes	Apr 14 HW 07 Section 9.2-9.3 eHW 08 Section 9.4, 10.1-10.2	Apr 15	Apr 16	Apr 17	Apr 18	Apr 19
Week 6 (April 20-26): Section 13.3-13.4, 14.1-14.3 Series and Parametric Equations	Apr 20	Apr 21 eHW 09 Section 12.1-12.3 eHW 10 Section 13.1-13.2	Apr 22 T3 opens	Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25	Apr 26
Week 7 (April 27-May 3): Section 14.4 Conic Sections	Apr 27 T3 closes	Apr 28 eHW 11 Section 13.3 and 13.4 eHW 12 Section 14.1-14.3	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 1	May 2 eHW 13 Section 14.4	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 opportunity to retake another version of the exam, keeping the higher score. You will also get 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* 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.



TIP: Use the handy, click-able [Rhino Checklist](#) to also keep track of earning these Rhino Awards, as well as other graded assignments in the course. You can also see awards in Course Tools > Awards.

You have reached the end of this syllabus, and I am grateful that you took the time to read it. Thank you! In gratitude, click on the image of the rhinoceros in this document for something cool. I look forward to having an awesome semester together.