
MATH 107 7386 College Algebra (2218)

MATH-107

Fall 2021 Section 7386 3 Credits 10/20/2021 to 12/14/2021

Faculty Contact

Dr. James Howard II jamesp.howard@faculty.umgc.edu

Course Description

(The first course in the two-course series MATH 107-MATH 108. An alternative to MATH 115). An introduction to equations and inequalities and a study of functions and their properties, including the development of graphing skills with polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. The objective is to apply appropriate technology and demonstrate fluency in the language of algebra; communicate mathematical ideas; perform operations on real numbers, complex numbers, and functions; solve equations and inequalities; analyze and graph circles and functions; and use mathematical modeling to translate, solve, and interpret applied problems. Technology is used for data modeling. Discussion also covers applications. Students may receive credit for only one of the following courses: MATH 107 or MATH 115.

Course Introduction

"Algebra is the intellectual instrument which has been created for rendering clear the quantitative aspects of the world."—Alfred North Whitehead (1861–1947)

"Algebra is generous; she often gives more than is asked of her."—Jean D'Alembert (1717–1783)

Mathematicians have long extolled the power of algebra!

The purpose of this course is to foster the development of mathematical skills required in a wide range of disciplines. *College Algebra* emphasizes the application of these skills to fields ranging from astronomy and business to sports and transportation. This course continues the development of algebra skills that you gained in introductory and intermediate algebra courses, providing grounding in the function concept, and covering polynomial and rational functions as well as exponential and logarithmic functions.

College Algebra emphasizes problem-solving rather than theorem-proving. This course provides foundations for lifelong skills in quantitative reasoning.

Note: This course is identified as a prerequisite for another course at UMGC. Successful completion of this course is required to advance to the next course in a sequence. A grade of Withdrawal (W), Failure for non-attendance (FN), Failure (F) or Incomplete (I) will not meet a prerequisite requirement. You may be barred from enrolling in or may be removed from courses for which you do not have the necessary prerequisites. Keep track of your progress in this course. If you are uncertain about your standing, consult with your instructor. You should also work with an academic advisor to be sure you are aware of your options and are meeting all necessary program requirements when planning your schedule.

Course Outcomes

After completing this course, you should be able to

- demonstrate fluency in the language of college algebra and communicate mathematical ideas using appropriate terminology and technology
- perform operations on real numbers, complex numbers, and functions, including composition of functions

- solve linear, quadratic, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and absolute value equations; and solve linear, polynomial, rational, and absolute value inequalities
- analyze and graph circles and functions, including linear, piecewise, quadratic, higher order polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and inverse functions, and transformations of these functions
- use mathematical modeling to translate, solve, and interpret applied problems related to linear and quadratic modeling, average rate of change, variation, and exponential growth and decay

Course Materials

[Click to access your course materials information \(http://webapps.umgc.edu/UgcmBook/BPage.cfm?C=MATH%20107&S=7386&Sem=2218\)](http://webapps.umgc.edu/UgcmBook/BPage.cfm?C=MATH%20107&S=7386&Sem=2218)

* Class Guidelines

Preparation

To succeed in an 8-week mathematics course, it is important to complete all assignments on time. Print out a copy of the Course Schedule and keep it in a place where you can consult it daily. Late work will be accepted only in cases of documented emergency.

Turn in your material on time. The syllabus is clear that no material will be accepted late. If you have a thing happening, let me know ahead of time. I can plan; you can plan; we'll both be much happier.

Classroom Management

Don't edit your posts in discussion sessions. After I see your post, it gets marked as read. If you go in and edit it, it doesn't show up as new again. So I never know you posted something new! And it won't get graded.

Log into our online classroom regularly to read news, participate in discussions, and post questions. After posting work in a discussion, check back into the discussion to read comments and make any necessary revisions.

Questions and thoughts of general interest to the class should be posted in the "Ask the Professor" or "Student Lounge" discussions. For questions pertaining to your own work in the course, please send an e-mail with our course name in the subject line.

If you need help or get lost, let me know. I have a lot of resources I can send you that will get you through this. But if you're lost, you gotta tell me where you last knew where you were. If you send me an email that just says "I am lost, help, I don't know what to do," I will have no idea where you are or how to find you. It's just like being lost in the real world. So when you do get lost, tell me exactly where you are or, if you can't, what's happening and how you got there. It will make it a lot easier on both of us.

✓ Grading Information

You are responsible for the following graded items:

Component	Weight
LEO Participation	10%
Homework	45%
Linear Model Project	10%
Final Examination	35%

The work you are required to do in this course consists of

- weekly reading assignments
- homework for practice
- participation
- weekly homework for grading

- project
- a final examination

These course components are described below.

Weekly Reading Assignments

Even though there is no numerical score associated with the weekly reading assignments, how well you do in the course depends heavily on how conscientiously you follow the reading assignments.

When doing the reading for this course, you need to *slow down!*

Reading mathematics is not like reading anything else. You need to look carefully at the numbers and formulas and spend time making sure you understand them and that they make sense. Reading any mathematical text can take three to four times longer, per page, than reading a nonmathematical text.

Participation

By registering for a Web-based course, you have made a commitment to participate in course discussions and online activities. Plan to participate regularly. Participation for this course is defined as proactive discussion. This requires you to actively reflect on weekly readings and to develop original ideas in your responses. You are expected to demonstrate critical thinking and your understanding of the content in the assigned readings as they relate to the issues identified in the discussions. You are encouraged to respond to other students as well as to your instructor. You are expected to adhere to the general rules of online etiquette.

You are expected to participate in 8 weekly discussions.

For individual participation on an ongoing basis, there is a collection of participation topics posted in weekly LEO discussions. You are free to choose any topic, complying with the discussion instructions, provided someone else has not already attempted it or "reserved" it. You may be given opportunities to attempt your solution more than one time. If you make an error, you may get feedback and a chance to edit your work and resubmit it. The goal of online participation and problem solving is to help you understand the concepts and to give you an opportunity to practice solving problems and get feedback from me. See the participation instructions in each weekly module for details and deadlines.

Online participation work is to be posted in LEO discussions. Participation work submitted by other means will not be accepted. Please see "Classroom Management" for additional instructions.

The lowest discussion grade is automatically dropped.

Homework

Homework assignments are important milestones, as they provide valuable feedback for instructors and students. They are open book and will be given as indicated in the schedule. Homework assignments must represent your own work.

You will be given one week to work on each assignment, and the due dates can be found in the schedule. Each assignment will be posted as an Assignment at the beginning of the designated academic week, and each will be due at the end of that academic week. Assignments may be submitted in plain-text format, as attached files such as Microsoft Word documents, or as handwritten and scanned documents.

Assignments must be individually completed and represent your own work. Neither collaboration nor consultation with others is allowed. You are required to show your work and calculations, unless otherwise stated, in order to receive full credit.

To keep up with the pace of this course, you should submit assignments on or before the due date.

The lowest homework grade is automatically dropped.

Project

You are required to complete a project in this course involving curve-fitting and interpretation. See the Project Descriptions for details.

Final Examination

All sections of this course have a required final examination, administered in a 72 hour period during Week 8, the last week of the course.

The final exam is comprehensive, open book and includes multiple-choice and short answer questions. **You are required to show your work and calculations, unless otherwise stated, in order to receive full credit.**

The final exam must be individually completed and represent your own personal work. Neither collaboration nor consultation with others is allowed.

The solutions for the final examination will not be posted.

You are expected to take the exam as scheduled. In the event of illness or extraordinary circumstances, you must contact your faculty member and provide documentation to request an exception and approval to take a makeup exam. If the request is not approved, the exam grade will be recorded as a zero.

Additional Information

Late Policy

Meeting course deadlines is crucial for success in computer-mediated courses. You may read at your own pace, but homework, participation, and projects must adhere to the timetable given in the schedule. Every item will have a due date and a closing date. Anything submitted after the due date will receive 10 percent (of the full value) for each day and part of a day late. Nothing may be submitted after the closing date.

This course operates on Eastern Standard Time.

Guideline for Receiving Tutoring Services

We appreciate that many students may seek tutoring services to supplement our instructional program. However, tutors may not be used to complete any portion of assignments, projects, and exams on behalf of students. Students are expected to submit their own work. Students who are suspected of submitting the work of their tutors will be reported to the dean's office for potential investigation.

If you are to receive tutoring services, inform your tutor of this expectation and clarify your tutor's role and responsibility to your academic endeavors at UMGC.

Project Descriptions

For this assignment, you will implement a project involving curve-fitting and interpretation.

Linear Model Project

For this assignment, you will compile appropriate data, fit the data to a linear model, assess the appropriateness of the model, and explore the predictive power of the model. You will use appropriate technology to perform the modeling tasks.

In our classroom, navigate Content > Linear Project module for detailed instructions.

Nonlinear Models

Nonlinear models, such as quadratic models and exponential models, will be explored via homework and participation.

Academic Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) has adopted a [Philosophy of Academic Integrity \(https://www.umgc.edu/current-philosophy-of-academic-integrity\)](https://www.umgc.edu/current-philosophy-of-academic-integrity)

[students/learning-resources/academic-integrity/philosophy.cfm](https://www.umgc.edu/current-students/learning-resources/academic-integrity/philosophy.cfm)) to guide the university's commitment to a culture of academic integrity and authentic education encompassing a set of dispositions and behaviors that are socially beneficial, educationally critical, and professionally necessary.

All members of the University community must maintain the highest level of integrity across the academic experience. For students, intellectually honest academic work represents independent analysis, acknowledges all sources of information that contribute to the ideas being explored, and ensures the ability to engage in life and work authentically. Your instructor is your primary resource for how to uphold the highest ethical standards in the context of this course's specific requirements.

Turnitin is enabled within the classroom to support the development and assessment of authentic student writing. To learn more about Turnitin, the feedback it provides, how to use feedback to improve your work, and your options regarding the inclusion of your work in the Turnitin database, visit University guides for Turnitin at sites.umgc.edu/library/libresources/turnitin.cfm (<https://sites.umgc.edu/library/libresources/turnitin.cfm>) and <https://sites.umgc.edu/library/libresources/turnitin.cfm#studentcopyright> (<https://sites.umgc.edu/library/libresources/turnitin.cfm#studentcopyright>).

Other Academic Integrity resources and guidelines are found at <https://www.umgc.edu/current-students/learning-resources/academic-integrity/index.cfm> (<https://www.umgc.edu/current-students/learning-resources/academic-integrity/index.cfm>).

CLASSROOM CIVILITY

University of Maryland Global Campus is committed to the success of our global community and values the diverse identities and backgrounds of our students, faculty, and staff. Each one of us has a broader life and set of experiences beyond UMGC that we bring with us to each interaction. Sharing your story with your classmates provides opportunities to learn, relate, and gain inspiration from each other. Engagement often begins with introductions at the beginning of the course. Sharing your preferred name, preferred pronouns, and other details about yourself and your life builds a foundation for connection, understanding, and a richer and more personalized learning experience.

We also recognize that some of life's responsibilities and challenges outside of the classroom, such as childcare, a change in employment status, or illness, have an impact on success in a course. To the extent you are comfortable, we encourage you to communicate with your faculty member or Success Coach about any concerns you have for this course or as a student at UMGC so we can help you navigate potential obstacles and stay on track to achieve your goals.

Students are expected to work together cooperatively, and treat fellow students and faculty with respect, showing professionalism and courtesy in all interactions. Please review the Code of Civility for more guidance on interacting in UMGC classrooms: <https://www.umgc.edu/students/support/studentlife/conduct/code.cfm> (<https://www.umgc.edu/students/support/studentlife/conduct/code.cfm>).

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

UMGC is committed to ensuring that all individuals are treated equally according to Policy 040.30 [Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, and Sexual Harassment](https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/administration-policies/affirmative-action-and-equal-opportunity.cfm) (<https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/administration-policies/affirmative-action-and-equal-opportunity.cfm>).

Students with disabilities who need accommodations in a course are encouraged to contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) at accessibilityservices@umgc.edu, or call 800-888-8682 or 240-684-2287.

The following academic policies and procedures apply to this course and your studies at UMGC.

150.25	<p>Academic Integrity Policy (http://www.umgc.edu/policies/academicpolicies/aa15025.cfm) The University expects all members of the university community—students, faculty, and staff—to use guidelines to work with and promote integrity. If you are aware of any academic misconduct, please contact integrity@umgc.edu. All cases of academic misconduct will be addressed in accordance with Policy 150.25 (http://www.umgc.edu/policies/academicpolicies/aa15025.cfm) and associated procedures.</p> <p>You are expected to engage in new learning that furthers your development of knowledge, skills, and abilities in each course. According to this policy, you may not submit a substantial portion of any coursework that you have submitted to any course previously without express written approval through assignment guidelines or other forms of communication.</p> <p>You must use UMGC course materials responsibly. Uploading course materials to any website outside of UMGC’s online classroom is prohibited by this policy.</p>
151.00	<p>Code of Student Conduct (https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct.cfm)</p>
170.40 170.41 170.42	<p>The following policies describe the requirements for the award of each degree:</p> <p>Degree Completion Requirements for the Graduate School(https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/academic-affairs/graduate-school-degree-completion-requirements.cfm)</p> <p>Degree Completion Requirements for a Bachelor’s Degree(https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/academic-affairs/bachelors-degree-completion-requirements.cfm)</p> <p>Degree Completion Requirements for an Associate’s Degree(https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/academic-affairs/associates-degree-completion-requirements.cfm)</p>
170.71	<p>Policy on Grade of Incomplete(https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/academic-affairs/grade-of-incomplete-policy.cfm) - The mark of I is exceptional and considered only for certain courses. Students who have completed 60% of their coursework with a grade of B or better for graduate courses or C or better for undergraduate courses and request an I before the end of the term. The mark of I is not available for noncredit courses.</p>
170.72	<p>Course Withdrawal Policy (https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/academic-affairs/course-withdrawal.cfm) - Students must follow drop and withdrawal procedures and deadlines available at https://www.umgc.edu/ under Academic Calendar.</p>
130.80	<p>Procedures for Review of Alleged Arbitrary and Capricious Grading(https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/academic-affairs/capricious-grading-review.cfm) – appeals may be made on final course grades as described herein.</p>
190.00	<p>Intellectual Property (https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/research/intellectual-property.cfm) - All university faculty, staff, and students must comply with University guidelines on the use of copyrighted material. Uploading UMGC or faculty copyrighted material without authorization degrades and corrupts the integrity of the teaching and learning experience and is a potential violation of UMGC policy and copyright law. You must obtain permission to post UMGC or other’s copyrighted material to third-party websites, including social learning network sites. UMGC reserves the right to take appropriate action to remove copyrighted material uploaded without authorization.</p>
205.06	<p>Calculation Of Grade-Point Average (GPA) for Inclusion on Transcripts and Transcript Requests (https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/academic-affairs/grade-point-average-calculation-for-inclusion-on-transcripts-and-transcript-requests.cfm) - Note: Undergraduate and graduate courses have different Grading Policies. See Course Syllabus for Grading Policies.</p>
270.00	<p>Acceptable Use (https://www.umgc.edu/administration/policies-and-reporting/policies/fiscal-and-business-affairs/acceptable-use.cfm) - The security of the online classroom is critical to ensuring a strong culture of academic integrity and authentic education at the University. It is a violation of the University’s policies for anyone to share logon, password, and any other secure information about a UMGC online account, including credentials required to access the online learning environment.</p>

GRADING

According to UMGC's grading policy, the following marks are used:

	Undergraduate	Graduate
A	90-100	90-100
B	80-89	80-89
C	70-79	70-79*
D	60-69	N/A**
F	59 or below	69 or below
FN	Failure-Non attendance	Failure-Non attendance
G	Grade Pending	Grade Pending
P	Passing	Passing
S	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
I	Incomplete	Incomplete
AU	Audit	Audit
W	Withdrew	Withdrew

* The grade of "B" represents the benchmark for graduate courses. Students must maintain a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher. Classes where final grade of C or F places a student on Academic Probation must be repeated.

** UMGC does not award the grade of D in graduate courses.

GRADE ROUNDING

Scores to individual assignments are calculated based on rubrics in the class and are not rounded to the whole point. The final grade for the course is determined by weighted average and will be rounded to the nearest whole point using mathematical rule (grades with .5 and above to be rounded to the next whole point).

EXTRA CREDIT

Assignments are designed to enable students to achieve course objectives and succeed in the program. In the interest of equity and fairness, there will be no extra credit opportunities. All assignments are identified in the syllabus.

COURSE EVALUATION SURVEY

UMGC values its students' feedback. You will be asked to complete an online evaluation toward the end of the term. The primary purpose of this evaluation process is to assess the effectiveness of classroom instruction in order to provide the best learning experience possible and make continuous improvements to every class. Responses are kept confidential. Please take full advantage of this opportunity to provide your feedback.

LIBRARY SUPPORT

Extensive library resources and services are available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at <https://sites.umgc.edu/library/index.cfm> (<https://sites.umgc.edu/library/index.cfm>) to support you in your studies. The UMGC Library provides research assistance in creating search strategies, selecting relevant databases, and evaluating and citing resources in a variety of formats via its Ask a Librarian service at <https://www.umgc.edu/library/libask/index.cfm> (<https://www.umgc.edu/library/libask/index.cfm>).

EXTERNAL LINK DISCLAIMER

This course may contain links to external sites neither owned nor maintained by UMGC. UMGC bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality, or content of external sites or for that of subsequent links. In addition, the terms of use, security policies, and privacy policies may differ from those of UMGC. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content, terms of use, and policies.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT

Those requiring technical assistance can access Help@UMGC Support directly in LEO under the Help menu. Additional technical support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week via self-help and live chat at <https://www.umgc.edu/help/> (<https://www.umgc.edu/help/>) or by phone toll-free at 888-360-8682.

SYLLABUS CHANGES

All items on this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor and the Office of Academic Affairs.

Class & Assignment Schedule

Students have access to a calendar tool on the course homepage within the classroom. All assignments are due at the end of the day (11:59pm in the US Eastern time zone) on the specified dates. A world clock is found at: <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/> (<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>)

Week	Activities
1	<p>Week 1: Review of Basic Concepts of Algebra (10/20 - 10/26)</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• News (Announcements on home page)• Syllabus• Week 1 Learning Resources <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiarize yourself with the Course Resources in LEO, including the textbook, course modules, and supplementary course materials• Introduce yourself and meet your classmates in the Introductions discussion (optional)• Post any questions in the "Ask the Professor" discussion (if desired)• Homework 1: due 10/26• Participation: due 10/26
2	<p>Week 2: Relations, Graphs, and Functions (10/27 - 11/2)</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 2 Learning Resources <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework 2: due 11/2• Participation: due 11/2• Work on Linear Model Project. See Linear Project module.

3	<p>Week 3: Transformations of Functions; Linear Functions, Absolute Value Functions, and Applications (11/3 - 11/9)</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 3 Learning Resources <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework 3: due 11/9 • Participation: due 11/9 • Work on Linear Model Project. See Linear Project module.
4	<p>Week 4: Complex Numbers; Quadratic Equations, Functions and Applications (11/10 - 11/16)</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 4 Learning Resources <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework 4: due 11/16 • Participation: due 11/16 • Work on Linear Model Project. See Linear Project Module.
5	<p>Week 5: Polynomial Functions, Rational Functions, Equations, and Inequalities (11/17 - 11/23)</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5 Learning Resources <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework 5: due 11/23 • Participation: due 11/23 • Work on Linear Model Project. See Linear Project Module.
6	<p>Week 6: Inverse, Radical, Exponential, and Logarithmic Functions (11/24 - 11/30)</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 6 Learning Resources <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework 6: due 11/30 • Participation: due 11/30 • Work on Linear Model Project. See Linear Project Module.

7	<p>Week 7: Exponential and Logarithmic Properties, Equations and Applications (12/1 - 12/7)</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 7 Learning Resources <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework 7: due 12/7• Participation: due 12/7• Work on Linear Model Project. See Linear Project Module.
8	<p>Week 8: Review and Final Exam (12/7 - 12/14)</p> <p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation: due 12/11• Linear Model Project and submit, due 12/11• Final Exam (cumulative): due 12/14 <p>The Final Exam will be available in LEO Under "Quizzes" at 12:01 a.m. on 12/12.</p> <p>The Final Exam must be completed no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on 12/14. It is comprehensive, open book and includes multiple-choice and short answer questions. The final exam must be individually completed and represent your own personal work. Neither collaboration nor consultation with others is allowed. The solutions for the final exam will not be posted.</p>