

Josh Thompson

Assistant Professor: Northern Michigan University

[Home](#) [Teaching](#) [Research](#) [Other](#) [Contact](#)

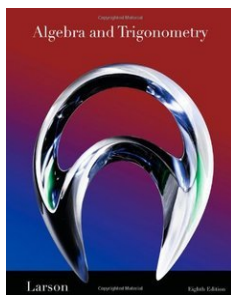
[Home](#) > [Teaching](#) > [Math 104](#) > [Syllabus](#)

Math 104 :: College Algebra :: Winter 2013

This is the **syllabus** for Math 104-02 and Math 104-03. See the links to the right for updated information. Here you'll find information on prerequisites, grading policy, homework, study resources and a tentative course calendar.

Textbook

The (required) textbook we will use for this course is **Algebra and Trigonometry** by Larson. I will use the Eighth Edition, which is available at the University Bookstore. It is pictured below.



Other editions will be very similar, but the exercises will occasionally differ. If you have a different edition, find a friend with the eighth edition to make sure the exercises you work match your friend's. This is an excellent text, it is carefully written with clear explanations, it motivates the subject and has lots of examples.

Class

Class will be held in **West Science 1705**, unless otherwise noted on the following days & times.

- Math 104-02: 10:00 a.m., Mon-Wed-Thur-Fri
- Math 104-03: 11:00 a.m., Mon-Wed-Thur-Fri

Office Hours

I am often in my office **NSF 1115**, you are free to stop by and see if I am available. My official office hours are

- Wednesday: 3pm - 5pm
- Thursday: 1pm - 3pm
- Friday: 1pm - 2pm

Attendance

Regular attendance is expected. Important dates can be found [here](#).

Grading

- Homework 25%
- Team Quizzes 5%
- Exams 45% (3 @ 15% each)
- Final 25%

WeBWork

Homework will be administered via [WeBWork](#), and is due each Monday at 8am. Any additional written homework will be turned in on Monday. Help can be found [here](#).

Links for Math 104

- [Syllabus](#)
- [WeBWork](#)
- [Homework](#)
- [Notes & Lectures](#)
- [Writing Suggestions](#)
- [Some Fundamental Facts](#)
- [College Algebra Resources](#)

Other Links

- [Courses Previously Taught](#)
- [My Teaching Statement](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [NMU Home](#)
- [NMU Math](#)
- [MyNMU](#)
- [MyWeb](#)
- [EduCat](#)

Quizzes

Unannounced *team* quizzes will be given on occasion. Some quizzes will be group quizzes. *Teams of two* will be chosen randomly before each group quiz.

Exams

- Exam 1 - February 1
- Exam 2 - March 1
- Exam 3 - April 5
- Final - (MA104-02) :: Tuesday, April 30 :: 10 am - 11:50 am
- Final - (MA104-03) :: Thursday, May 2 :: 10 am - 11:50 am
- *Make sure that you will be able to attend the exams at the given dates and times. Exceptions can only be accepted in case of time conflicts with other courses, or serious illness with a physician's certification.* [[Final Exam Schedule](#)]

You need a C- or better in MA 100 or satisfactory score on the Math Placement Exam. You **should be familiar** with the ideas on page *one* of [this sheet](#).

Calculators & Graphing Software

Calculators and graphing software will often be used in class and will be allowed on **Some** exams and quizzes. Unless otherwise notified, you are **not allowed to have any information saved** in your calculators during quizzes and exams. You are not required to have a calculator, since there are many free online graphing calculators available. [[FooPlot.com](#), [DesMos.com](#)]

Laptops

In order to promote a focused learning environment, **Do not use your laptop in class unless instructed to do so.**

Other Resources

The link on the right [College Algebra Resources](#) contains links to mostly free sites & documents that will help you get off on the right foot. Both free and paid [tutoring](#) is available, in the tutoring lab in NSF 3810.

Outcomes & Assessment

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Students will choose and set up appropriate mathematical models to describe real-world problems.
- They will understand the characteristics of various mathematical functions (linear, exponential, logarithmic, logistic, trigonometric, quadratic, power functions).
- Students will also distinguish such functions from another in terms of the way in which they change.
- Students will use calculators and computer software to set up and solve problems using graphs, tables, and formulas.

Evaluation of these learning outcomes will be done through a mix of assignments, class exercises, projects, research papers, group work, written & oral quizzes and tests.

Course Description

We will first develop a strong foundation of numbers and their properties by focusing on the terminology and basic concepts of real numbers and the common functions on them. We will study carefully the behavior of functions and use this knowledge to solve some interesting real-world problems.

Foundations Requirement

This course satisfies the Foundation of Natural sciences/Mathematics requirement. Students who complete this course should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of mathematical logic; use mathematics to solve scientific or mathematical problems in college classes; express relationships in

the symbolic language of mathematics; and appreciate the role of mathematics in analyzing natural phenomena.

University Policies

Academic Honesty: Cheating is not only unethical and pathetic, but is a violation of the Northern Michigan University [Student Code and University Policy](#) and grounds for your dismissal from the University.

Discrimination & Harassment: Northern Michigan University does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap/disability, sexual orientation or veteran status. If you have a civil rights inquiry, contact the [Affirmative Action Office](#) at 906-227-2420.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: The University seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of [Disability Services](#) in the Dean of Students Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock Building (227-1700). at 906-227-1700 as soon as possible. Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.

The Registrar: Withdrawing from any course or any matters relating to registration are the responsibility of the student. For more information regarding this topic, check out the [Registrars Website](#).