

## **MATH 050-01 Intermediate Algebra Syllabus for May 2020**

### **On-line**

**Instructor:** Dr. Eric Errthum

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**Catalog Description:** A review of pre-algebra and intermediate algebra topics designed to prepare the student for college-level mathematics. MATH 050 is a non-degree credit course and will not count toward meeting minimum total credit requirements for graduation. P/NC [Pass/No Credit] only. (*Note: For a list of all 341 topics for the course, see the [topic syllabus](#).*)

## **Online Software:**

This is an online class using ALEKS (Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces) software via [www.ALEKS.com](http://www.ALEKS.com). ALEKS is an artificial intelligence-based system for individualized learning and is available 24/7 over the Internet. You will work at your own pace, following the lessons and assessments which are provided by ALEKS.

**ALEKS – Course Code: NC3JE-4WEDT.**

[More details and a “How-To” for registering with ALEKS.](#)

It is recommended you purchase ALEKS directly from ALEKS.com. The **6 weeks (Short Access)** (\$25) should suffice for the duration of this course.

**Free Temporary Access to ALEKS – Financial Aid Access Code:** The Financial Aid Access Code (FAAC) is designed to assist if you are experiencing financial aid delays. With the FAAC, you can enroll in this course and have temporary access to ALEKS for up to a two-week period.

**Financial Aid Access Code is: 32C9E-E0713-CC377-6F865**

Once you enroll in the course using the FAAC, it is highly recommended that you purchase a regular Student Access Code before the two-week period ends to extend your account.

**NOTE: The start date of your paid account is the date the student activated the FAAC and NOT the date when the account was extended with a purchased Student Access Code.**

*Example: Say you use the free 2-week access today, and then two weeks from now, you buy the 6 weeks access. This will only give you 6 weeks total of access...not 8 weeks. The Financial Aid Access Code does not add an additional two weeks to your account.*

### **How ALEKS works:**

- The goal of ALEKS is to fill in a “pie”, which is a chart that represents all the material you have learned.
- You will start by taking an ***Initial Assessment***. This is a test to see how much of the prerequisite material you already know. The topics you already know will be added to your pie.
  - This assessment does NOT count in any way toward your grade. Getting assistance from someone else on the initial assessment will NOT improve your grade, but it WILL cause ALEKS to start your learning exercises at a level that is beyond your ability.
- Once your mathematical competence has been established, ALEKS will generate lessons designed to address the content that you will be working on. Follow the directions as you go through these lessons. When the computer has decided you have mastered a topic, it will be added to your pie. It is essential you work throughout the term to fill in the pie.
- As you work and gain knowledge, ALEKS will generate assessments to check your progress and retention and make necessary adjustments to the material that is presented to you and will adjust your pie.
  - These assessments are called knowledge checks. They help you prepare for the final exam. Treat them as practice exams. Do not get help from others, internet, or looking through your notes. Doing those things will only hurt you later for the final exam. It is completely ok if your pie score goes up or down after a knowledge check. Work early and often and you will succeed!!!

## Pacing Chart

The following chart is intended as a general guide to help you know if you are on pace for completing the course in time. It is **not** a promise of a passing grade. The grade in the course is decided solely by your final exam, see details below.

Date	Percent Needed To Be on Pace	Number of Topics	Date	Percent Needed To Be on Pace	Number of Topics
May 11, 2020	35% - 50%	119 - 171	May 22, 2020	61% - 76%	208 - 259
May 12, 2020	38% - 53%	130 - 181	May 25, 2020	63% - 78%	215 - 266
May 13, 2020	41% - 56%	140 - 191	May 26, 2020	65% - 80%	222 - 273
May 14, 2020	44% - 59%	150 - 201	May 27, 2020	67% - 82%	228 - 280
May 15, 2020	47% - 62%	160 - 211	May 28, 2020	69% - 84%	235 - 286
May 18, 2020	50% - 65%	171 - 222	May 29, 2020	71% - 86%	242 - 293
May 19, 2020	53% - 68%	181 - 232	June 1, 2020	73% - 88%	249 - 300
May 20, 2020	56% - 71%	191 - 242	June 2, 2020	75% - 90%	256 - 307
May 21, 2020	59% - 74%	201 - 252			

You must earn **256 topics = 75% or higher on the Final Exam to receive a passing grade** at the end of the course.

# **Course Logistics:**

**Individual Assistance:** If you have questions or concerns about the material or other issues with the class, **please email me** and I will respond as soon as I am able. If needed, I can set up a Zoom meeting for a real-time conversation.

**Class Materials:** You must have your computer/smartphone/internet-connected device. Your device must have a webcam for the final exam. I strongly suggest a notebook or folder for you to organize notes, examples, and your work. You can send me images of your work if you are having problems and can use your work to study for the final assessment. You will not need a calculator; ALEKS provides an online calculator. This course does NOT use D2L. There will be no content on D2L for this course. All content will be delivered through ALEKS and the final assessment will be done with ALEKS and Zoom.

**Zoom:** During the final exam, you will be required to log into a Zoom video conference and share both your webcam and screen. Zoom is a free program that you will have to download and install on the laptop or computer that you will use to take the final ALEKS exam. When you schedule your final exam, you will receive a link to your unique web meeting.

**Grade Type:** Pass or No Credit. *NOTE: This course does not carry credit toward a university degree.*

**Grade Determination:** Your grade will be based on your final exam. The final exam will be a comprehensive assessment generated by ALEKS which will cover **all 341 topics** in the ALEKS pie. You must earn **256 topics = 75% or higher to receive a passing grade** at the end of the course.

**Final Exam Information:** You will be able to schedule your final exam on **Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>, or Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>**. There will be morning and afternoon timeslots available. You will not need to take the final exam in person; however you are required to attend a Zoom meeting so I can check your ID and monitor your computer and webcam. You may only use the on-screen calculator provided by ALEKS for the Final Exam.

**This will be the last chance for you to improve your grade. No retesting will be permitted after the posted day and time of the final. Once the final is over nothing can be done to improve your grade.**

**Early Final Exam:** Once you have filled in 90% of your ALEKS pie you may arrange to take the final exam early. You will receive a PASS in the course if you are able to **score 90% or higher** on an early final exam. If your grade on the Final Assessment (when taken early) is lower than 90%, your exam score will not be accepted, and you can continue to work on ALEKS. You may take the final assessment as many times as you'd like provided that your ALEKS pie is back to 90% or higher and availability of the instructor for monitoring purposes. Students who have not successfully earned 90% or higher on an early final exam by the dates of the final must take the ALEKS final exam during one of the scheduled final exam timeslots on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup>, or June 5<sup>th</sup>.

## You Can Do It!

**Goals for the Course:** I know you can be successful in this course if you put in the effort. My goal is to help you to be successful in your NEXT math/stat/data science course. Along the way, you will grow in confidence with your problem-solving ability and mathematical/statistical knowledge.

### Keys to success:

1. **Ask ME Questions!!!!** I am here to help you. But in an online course it's hard to know who is struggling. So reach out to me!
2. **Work early, often, and consistently.** Give yourself a manageable work schedule and put in time with ALEKS. For example: work on ALEKS **every day for at least 3 hours** or whatever is required for you to stay on pace (see pacing chart below). Don't "cram" your ALEKS time. The program is not designed for you to only log in once every two or three days for 6 hours. This approach isn't fun and is not the best way to learn math (or any subject).
3. **Keep a notebook/folder with your work.** You can send me images of your work if you are having problems and can use your work to study for the final assessment.
4. **ASK ME QUESTIONS - - - -** I really want to help you with any math content knowledge deficits, insecurities, or just general questions. I would like to give you the best experience possible with Math 050.

*I encourage all of you to try to take the final exam early!!!!!!*

## **Disclaimers**

**Summer Course Disclaimer:** Summer courses contain the same amount of content as regular semester courses. This means that approximately **1 day in summer is 1 week in the regular semester**. So if you typically work on homework and studying an hour a day during the regular semester, you will be putting in 4-6 hours a day for your summer course. In other words, **a summer course can be a full-time job**. Your instructor has no control over the format of the course, nor the fact that you chose to register for a summer course. According to the registration page, full refund is available until May 15, 2020, 11:59PM CST. The last day to withdraw from this course is May 31, 2020.

**On-line Course Disclaimer:** Online courses happen during your own time. The upside of this is that an online course is flexible enough to fit into your schedule. The downside of this is that it is often easy to put off the work required since there are no concrete due dates (except the final exam). Since we may never meet face-to-face, I can at best send you email reminders to stay on pace. But it is hard for me to know if you are struggling or just busy with other aspects of your life. It is your responsibility to reach out to me if you are having difficulties in the course, so that together we can remedy the situation and get you back on track.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any type of academic dishonesty (cheating, copying, using a solutions manual to do homework, etc.) will result in a failing grade and will be reported to school authorities. If you are having trouble with the material, please contact the instructor.

**Students who require special accommodations are encouraged to let me know what they need.**

**Note:** This syllabus is subject to change if deemed necessary by the instructor.

## **Commitment to Inclusive Excellence**

WSU recognizes that our individual differences can deepen our understanding of one another and the world around us, rather than divide us. In this class, people of all ethnicities, genders and gender identities, religions, ages, sexual orientations, disabilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, and nationalities are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. If you feel your differences may in some way isolate you from WSU's community or if you have a need of any specific accommodations, please speak with the instructor early in the semester about your concerns and what we can do together to help you become an active and engaged member of our class and community.

The Standard Disclaimer applies.

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