UNM Valencia
MATH 1215-552, Intermediate Algebra
Fall 2026

Instructor: Michael Gonzales
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Instructor Led Tutoring Hours: Mondays: 1400-1530 Zoom Link, Tuesdays: 1315- 1345 WTC Common Area/Library, Wednesdays: 1300-1400 Zoom Link
MECS Division Chair: Andrew Taylor ataylor19@unm.edu
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This is a three credit-hour course delivered in an entirely asynchronous online modality over 16 weeks during the Fall 2026 semester. Please plan for a minimum of 9 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments.

Textbook: *Developmental Mathematics*, 2nd edition, by Sullivan, Struve, Mazzarella.

Course description: This course is a study of linear and quadratics functions, an introduction to polynomial, absolute value, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Development of strategies for solving single variable equations and contextual problems. (3 Credit Hours).

Prerequisites: Appropriate placement score or a grade of C or better in Math 100 or Math 022 or FYEX 1010 or ISM 100 or ACT Math ≥ 18 or SAT Math Section ≥ 490 or ACCUPLACER Next-Generation Advanced Algebra and Functions ≥ 228, or QRAS ≥ 248, or Arithmetic ≥ 285. Check with your adviser to make sure you meet the requirements.

Course Outcomes: In this course, we will explore linear functions, systems of linear equations, linear inequalities, polynomials and factoring, rational functions, and radical functions, and we will introduce exponential and logarithmic functions. A complete list of the Student Learning Objectives for this course is given at the end of this syllabus.

Other Requirements: Reliable access to a computer or tablet, and Internet. A computer (laptop or desktop) is recommended. Preferred browsers are Chrome, Firefox, or Safari. The preferred operating systems are Windows or Apple.
Access to UNM Learn requires use your UNM NetID to log into UNM Learn. You may access it directly via https://canvas.unm.edu/
Standard or Scientific calculator. It cannot be an app on your cell phone.
Adobe Reader (a free download), preferably version 11.0 or better.

High School Grade (10%): Grade in your high school class will make up 10% of

your grade for this class.

Guided Notes (15%): Guided notes will be available on Canvas and given to your high school teacher. They must be completed to receive full credit. These will be graded on completeness, which includes showing all work for practice problems, and correctness. You may show your work using words, mathematical operations, or in a clear and concise way that demonstrates your understanding of the material. There will be 12 guided note assignments. Your one lowest guided notes grade will be dropped.

Unit Quizzes (15%): Unit Quizzes will be short quizzes based on the material of each unit. These quizzes will be no more than 15 minutes and will be graded on completeness, which includes showing all work for problems listed, and correctness. You may show your work using words, mathematical operations, or in a clear and concise way that demonstrates your understanding of the material. **There are no calculators allowed for the Unit Quizzes.** You may use a 3in. by 5in. index card on the quiz with notes. This must be submitted with the quiz. There will be 12-unit quizzes. Your one lowest unit quiz grade will be dropped.

Midterm and Final Exam Review Packets (10%): There will be a review packet with practice problems for the two midterm exams as well as for the final exam. These packets will be graded based on completeness, which includes showing all work for practice problems, and correctness. You may show your work using words, mathematical operations, or in a clear and concise way that demonstrates your understanding of the material.

Term Exams (20%): There will be two written exams during the semester. These will correspond to the final exams for Math 1215X and Math 1215Y, respectively. Each exam is work 100 points. If you are ill or an unexpected event happens preventing you from taking the exam, you have one week to make it up. **There are no calculators allowed for the Exams.** You may use a 3in. by 5in. index card on the exam with notes. This must be submitted with each exam.

Final Exam (30%): The final is a departmental exam that will test all, or nearly all, of the learning objectives for this course. The final exam must be taken during the week scheduled. You are allowed to take the final only once. **There are no calculators allowed for the Final Exam.** You may use a 3in. by 5in. index card for the Final with notes. This must be submitted with the Final.

Grading: Course Averages: High School Grade 10%, Guided Notes 15%, Unit Quizzes 15%, Term and Final Exam Review Packets 10%, Term Exam (2) 20%, Cumulative Final Exam* 30%. Total: 100%

Grading Scale:

A+: x > 97%	**A:** 93 ≤ x ≤ 97%	**A-:** 90% ≤ x < 93%
B+: 87% ≤ x < 90%	**B:** 83% ≤ x < 87%	**B-:** 80% ≤ x < 83%
C+: 77% ≤ x < 80%	**C:** 70% ≤ x < 77%	
D: 60% ≤ x < 70%		
F: x < 60%		

Other Important Information:

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact the UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at sjclawson@unm.edu. Also available is the Accessibility Resource Center at UNM-Albuquerque at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

UAP 2720 and 2740. Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

Respectful Conduct Expectations: I am committed to building with you a positive classroom environment in which everyone can learn. I reserve the right to intervene and enforce standards of respectful behavior when classroom conduct is inconsistent with university expectations. Interventions and enforcement may include but are not limited to required meetings to discuss classroom expectations, written notification of expectations, and/or removal from a class meeting. Removal from a class meeting will result in an unexcused absence. Three or more unexcused absences may result in permanent removal and a drop from the course (see attendance policy). The University of New Mexico ensures freedom of academic inquiry, free expression and open debate, and a respectful campus through adherence to the following policies: D75: Classroom Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, University Policy 2240 – Respectful Campus, University Policy 2210 – Campus Violence.

Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism (academic dishonesty) are often driven by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risking your academic career by committing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty involves claiming that work created by another source is your own original work. It is a Student Code of Conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. When you use a resource in work submitted for this class, document how you used it and distinguish clearly between your original work and the material taken from the resource. (Add specifics about acceptable AI usage.)

Generative Artificial Intelligence Use: This course is meant to help you develop and demonstrate key knowledge and skills without the support of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for submitted work. Using generative AI to complete submitted coursework in this course will interfere with the advantages in learning and understanding that this course offers you. You are expected to complete submitted work without any generative AI assistance. Prohibited generative AI use includes tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot, Grammarly's generative AI features, AI image generators, AI video or audio generators, AI code generators, AI paraphrasing tools, AI presentation generators, AI design tools, and similar technologies. The purpose of this course policy is educational, not punitive. The assignments in this course are aligned with specific learning processes and outcomes that support your future learning and expertise. Submitting AI-generated or AI-assisted in this course is inconsistent with course expectations and may violate UNM's academic integrity standards and Student Code of Conduct. If AI use is suspected, I will use submitted coursework, assignment directions, conversations with you about your work and process, and this syllabus to determine whether academic misconduct occurred. If you are unsure if a tool or use is allowed, please ask before submitting the assignment.

Generative AI is a type of AI that refers to technologies that generate text, images, audio, video, code, or other content in response to user prompts. You should acknowledge meaningful generative AI assistance when you submit work. A brief statement is sufficient.

For example:

I used ChatGPT to help brainstorm possible paper topics and revise my introduction for clarity. I reviewed and edited the final version myself.

or

I used Adobe Firefly to generate an illustrative image for my presentation. I revised the slide design myself and verified that the image was appropriate for the assignment.

You do not need to disclose minor uses such as spelling correction, sentence-level grammar correction, citation formatting, basic image cropping, basic color correction, file conversion, or accessibility-related tools related to an accommodation documented with UNM Accessibility Resource Center, unless an assignment specifically requires disclosure.

You remain responsible for the quality and appropriateness of the work you submit, including AI-generated content. You may not use AI to misrepresent your learning, fabricate sources or data, create misleading images or visual evidence, submit work you do not understand, or avoid the intellectual or creative work the assignment is designed to support. UNM's Academic Integrity Guide for Students applies to AI-assisted work.

You should not enter private, confidential, regulated, or sensitive information into AI tools unless the tools and use have been approved by UNM for that purpose. This includes personally identifiable information, peer or instructor created work, nonpublic community data, private chat logs, and images, voice recordings, or likenesses of real people without appropriate permission.

Learning works best when we start from a position of trust. In our course, students are expected to act honestly and responsibly, and I am expected to provide clear guidance about course expectations. On my part, I will also disclose to you how and when I am using generative AI tools with statements like those above. I also hold myself to the same standards of authorship, critical judgement, quality, and integrity that I have outlined in this policy. If you have questions about what constitutes appropriate AI use, please ask.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. As your professor, I will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are normally excused with reasonable notice to the professor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community.

Land Acknowledgement: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Support:

- Tutoring Hours: See my tutoring hours listed at the beginning of this syllabus. Feel free to come by or log in for online office hours or make an appointment to get help.
- Form study groups: You may work together with other members of our class.
- Resources to support study skill and time management are available through UNM-Valencia Learning Commons (Tutoring). Tutoring is available to you in math, science, writing, and other subjects through the Learning Commons: Learning and STEM Centers and Writing Center. In person tutoring is in these centers in the LRC (the building that also has the library). Tutoring in Zoom and, for writing, through email, is also available.
- If you are making an email appointment with the Writing Center, email your draft to tutor@unm.edu after you fill out the form above. If you have difficulty with the scheduling link above, would like an appointment in a subject not listed at that link, or have a question, email tutor@unm.edu. You'll get answers during business hours Monday through Friday. The webpage, with more details about available hours, is under construction at the moment.
- Student Services: There are various services provided in our Student Services Department. See below about equal access. Also, we have a testing center, advising, and career placement available: Valencia Student Services.
- Many students have found that time management workshops or work with peer tutors can help them meet their goals. These and are other resources are available through Pasos, and Student Learning Support at the Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Instructor Response Time: I routinely check the course for postings or emails, Monday (10 am) – Friday (12 pm), and sometimes on the weekend. You can anticipate a 24 to 48-hour response from me, Monday – Thursday. I will try and respond to all weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday) emails and postings by noon on Monday or earlier. I prefer all communication through email or Canvas Learn.

Semester Dates and Deadlines:

- Monday, August 17: First day of class, classes available in Canvas
- Friday, August 28, by 5:00 pm: Last day to add a class or to change credit hours or grade mode in LoboWEB.
- Friday, September 4, by 5:00 pm: Last day to drop without "W" grade and with 100% refund on LoboWEB
- Friday, November 6, by 5:00 pm: Last day to drop without Student Services permission on LoboWEB. Will receive "W" grade and will be responsible for tuition for the course.
- Friday, December 4, by 5:00 pm: Last day to drop with the permission form.

MATH 1215 Course Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate appropriate use of basic function language and notation.
    a. Communicate or present mathematical concepts using correct mathematical notation and terminology, correctly use function notation and vocabulary related to functions.
    b. Determine function values for given domain values and determine domain values for given function values.
    c. Determine domains for specific functions.
2. Convert between equivalent forms of algebraic expressions.
    a. Simplify expressions using properties of exponents.
    b. Add, subtract, and multiply polynomials.
    c. Rewrite line equations in different forms (slope-intercept, point-slope, standard)
    d. Factor some types of polynomials.
    e. Simplify radical expressions
    f. Simplify rational expressions.
    g. Rewrite exponential functions in logarithmic form and vice versa.
3. Solve single-variable equations of the types listed above.
    a. Solve for a single variable in a proportion.
    b. Solve for a single variable in a linear equation.
    c. Solve for a specified variable in a formula.
    d. Solve quadratic equations using factoring, quadratic formula, and the square root method.
    e. Solve equations containing rational expressions.
    f. Solve equations containing radical expressions.
    g. Solve absolute value equations in one variable.
    h. Solve exponential and logarithmic equations using equating

bases.

4. Interpret and communicate algebraic solutions graphically and numerically.
    a. Determine equations for lines in the three forms – slope-intercept and point-slope.
    b. Sketch the graphs of linear functions.
    c. Interpret slope in relation to variable coefficients and as a rate of change.
    d. Graph linear inequalities in one variable on a number line and write corresponding interval notation.
    e. Determine when linear equations represent parallel and perpendicular lines.
    f. Sketch graphs of quadratic functions.
5. Demonstrate contextual problem-solving skills that include setting up and solving problems and interpreting solutions in context.
    a. Determine linear equations from application problems and solve.
    b. Set up a linear proportion from an application problem and solve.
    c. Analyze solutions to application problems and give them contextual meaning.
    d. Determine the three types of outcomes from a system of linear equations in the con- text of what the graphs look like (terminology about consistent/inconsistent or dependent/independent not emphasized).
    e. Determine a system of linear equations from an application problem and solve if possible.
6. Apply appropriate problem-solving methods from among algebraic, graphical, and numeri- cal.
    a. Perform unit conversions.
    b. Solve linear inequalities in one variable.
    c. Simplify expressions written in scientific notation.
    d. Simplify multiplication and division problems using scientific notation.
    e. Apply solution methods learned to application problems.
    f. Solve systems of two linear equations graphically and algebraically.
    g. Solve problems including percent.
    h. Perform operations with radical expressions.
    i. Perform operations with rational expressions.
    j. Solve absolute value inequalities in one variable.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Dates	Sections/Topics	Assignments Due
1	08/17-08/23	Unit 1	Syllabus Quiz
2	08/24-08/30	Unit 2	Unit 1 Guided Notes and Quiz
3	08/31-09/06	Unit 3	Unit 2 Guided Notes and Quiz
4	09/07-09/13	Unit 4	Unit 3 Guided Notes and Quiz
5	09/14-09/20	Exam 1	Unit 4 Guided Notes and Quiz
6	09/21-09/27	Unit 5	
7	09/28-10/04	Unit 6	Unit 5 Guided Notes and Quiz
8	10/05-10/11	Unit 7	Unit 6 Guided Notes and Quiz
9	10/12-10/18	Unit 8	Unit 7 Guided Notes and Quiz
10	10/19-10/25	Unit 9	Unit 8 Guided Notes and Quiz
11	10/26-11/01	Exam 2	Unit 9 Guided Notes and Quiz
12	11/02-11/08	Unit 10	
13	11/09-11/15	Unit 11	Unit 10 Guided Notes and Quiz
14	11/16-11/22	Unit 12	Unit 11 Guided Notes and Quiz
15	11/23-11/29	Thanksgiving	
16	11/30-12/06	Review	Unit 12 Guided Notes and Quiz
17	12/07-12/13	Final Exam	