

# Syllabus

---

## Course Information

### Course Information

Course Number: Math 365

Course Title: Structure of Math I

Section 501 meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:45 to 2:00 PM in HELD 111

Section 502 meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:20 to 3:35 PM in HELD 111

All times listed in this course are Central Standard Time (CST) unless noted otherwise.

Credit Hours: 3

### Instructor Details

Instructor: Tamara Carter, Instructional Associate Professor

Office: Blocker 322C

Phone: Math Department: 979-845-3261. There is no phone in my office, so email is the best way to reach me.

E-Mail: [tcarter@tamu.edu](mailto:tcarter@tamu.edu)

Office Hours: Online (check the Home page in Canvas for the Zoom link)

Mondays 2:30 – 3:30 PM and

Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:00 PM and

by appointment.

### Course Description

*Math 365 Structure of Mathematics I*, Credits 3. Informal logic, sets, relations, functions, whole numbers, numeration systems, binary operations, integers, elementary number theory, modular systems, rational numbers and the system of real numbers. Designed primarily for elementary teacher certification. Others must have consent of instructor.

### Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite: Must have completed University Core Curriculum mathematics requirements with a grade of C or better.

### Special Course Designation

None

## Course Learning Outcomes

The purpose of taking the MATH 36X series of courses (MATH 365, 366, and 367) is for preservice elementary and middle school teachers to:

- Acquire knowledge of the mathematics topics beyond elementary school mathematics that can aid in developing deeper knowledge of elementary school mathematics;
- Gain experience in using this deeper understanding of the content to answer EC-8 students' math questions (at both a conceptual and procedural level), interpret EC-8 students' possible confusion about mathematics, and trouble-shoot EC-8 students' possible mistakes;
- Develop the disposition and ability to look at a problem from different points of view;
- See connections between different topics and branches of mathematics;
- Acquire knowledge of where to find potential material for enrichment for more advanced elementary students.

The overall goal of MATH 365 is to provide preservice elementary and middle-school teachers with the mathematical knowledge necessary to provide effective classroom instruction related to numbers and operations. MATH 365 is a mathematics CONTENT course for students working toward a teaching certificate that allows them to teach mathematics from Early Childhood through Grade 8. It IS NOT a methods course in which the main focus is on how to TEACH mathematics. It IS a course in which you will be asked to DO AND LEARN mathematics by engaging in logical mathematical thinking about numerical concepts so that you will have a strong content-knowledge base from which you can draw to make appropriate instructional decisions and generate appropriate mathematical questions as a mathematics teacher in elementary or middle school.

Students who participate in this course should improve their ability to:

- Appropriately represent in multiple ways the content related to numbers and operations that they are expected to teach;
- Develop and explain (verbally, pictorially, and in writing) their own mathematical thinking about numbers and operations;
- Use logical reasoning in the context of numbers and operations, including making conjectures and justifying them or providing counterexamples to disprove them; and
- Analyze and evaluate the mathematical reasoning of others.

The development of these broad outcomes will be supported by the accomplishment of more specific outcomes that will be articulated during the course.

During the semester, you will be expected to do homework and daily assignments that have been assigned to promote class discussion. There will be frequent in-class discussions of concepts and language that you will see again on the exams. It is impossible to replicate these experiences outside of the classroom environment; therefore, class attendance and participation are extremely important.

In addition, you are encouraged to schedule some time to work with other classmates outside of class. The majority of the content of this course focuses on the vocabulary and language of mathematical reasoning. The best way to learn vocabulary and language is to **use** it! In previous semesters, students in this course have found it very helpful to form small study groups, or at least to have a study partner, with whom to discuss the ideas and homework problems. Office hours (or times you schedule by appointment) are also available for extra discussion and questions. They are also a great place to establish a study group.

## **Textbook and/or Resource Materials**

### Textbook

Billstein, R., Boschmans, B., Libeskind, S., & Lott, J. *A Problem Solving Approach to Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers* (Thirteenth Edition). Any format of the textbook is acceptable. You will not need MyMathLab or other electronic resources beyond the text. We plan to use the same text for Math 366 next semester as well.

### Calculator

Calculators are not needed or allowed on exams. You may use a calculator as you reason through material in class or on homework questions, but make sure you know how to work the problems without a calculator by exam time.

### Other Technology

Online assessments will be completed electronically using a combination of Canvas and Gradescope.

Online office hours will use Zoom.

You will need a computer that meets TAMU's Bring Your Own Device policy (<https://it.tamu.edu/services/academics-and-research/teaching-and-learning-tools/computer-requirements/> (<https://it.tamu.edu/services/academics-and-research/teaching-and-learning-tools/computer-requirements/>)) and a high-speed internet connection

You will need to scan and upload written work as a PDF (this can be achieved with a cell phone or other technology – directions will be provided in Canvas).

You will also need appropriate software (PDF reader, Zoom on both your phone and computer, and the latest update on an internet browser - Chrome or Firefox is recommended)

If the need arises for proctored online assignments, I would expect them to be proctored over Zoom. This would require access to two devices during proctored assignments (usually your computer and phone).

### Texas A&M Student ID

Bring your student ID to each class/exam. If you have a question about your grade, please bring your ID when we talk.

## Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics (Revised)

Available here: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter111/index.html>  
(<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter111/index.html>)

## Grading Policy

The course grading will be based on the information below. At the end of the semester, you will receive the grade you *earned*, according to the scale given. Due to FERPA privacy issues, I cannot discuss grades over email or phone. If you have a question about your grade, please schedule an individual Zoom meeting or breakout room with me and bring your TAMU ID.

### Grade Breakdown

- Daily Grades: 10%
- Formal Explanations: 30%
- Exam 1: 20%
- Exam 2: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

### Letter Grade assignment

- A: [90,100]
- B: [80,90)
- C: [70,80)
- D: [60,70)
- F: [0,60)

### Appeal Policy

Students have one week upon the return of individual grades to notify the instructor of any inaccuracies in their graded work. Students should bring all grade disputes to their instructor in an individual Zoom meeting or in person. Due to FERPA privacy issues, grade disputes will not be discussed over email or in the classroom.

### Daily Grades

You will have a daily grade (DG) in Canvas between most class sessions. Daily grades will typically be assigned one class and due at **6 AM on the date of the next class** (for most students, that means that the assignments should be submitted before the student goes to bed the night before class). For Daily Grades, you may use your book, notes, calculators, internet sources, and **even help from other people** as long as you can explain the answers that you

submit. This is an opportunity for you to interact with the material with as much support as you need to understand the answers you submit.

## Formal Explanations

Explanations (both verbal and written) are vitally important for effective communication of mathematics. Sometimes in your teaching career, you will need to thoroughly explain a topic in writing (to send home to a student who is ill, to send home to explain to parents, or as a replacement for a textbook). You will work in groups and submit five formal explanations for this course. I suggest that you start early and work through multiple drafts of the assignment before submitting it. Note that these assignments are due at 6 AM on MONDAY mornings, so please work far enough in advance to ask questions during office hours prior to the due date. If you want to complete these before the weekends, please communicate that goal when picking your group members.

## Exams

There will be two proctored midterm exams administered during published class times. Everything discussed in class, experienced within an activity or assignment, or found in the homework, reading assignments, or explanations is eligible content for an exam. **You will be expected to show all of your work, and many items will require expository writing (such as explanations)**. No calculators, cellphones or other electronic devices are allowed (other than for proctoring purposes). You will need to have your ID available at each exam. I expect exams to be proctored in person. If remote proctoring becomes necessary, I plan to use Zoom. For exams proctored on Zoom, you will be required to set up a streaming video camera (cell phone or USB webcam) in such a way that the proctor will be able to view your workspace during the exam. The online proctoring sessions may be recorded.

## Final Exam

The final exam will be comprehensive and is required for all students. You will need to bring your ID to your final exam. If your final exam grade is higher than your lowest test grade, the grade on your final will also replace your lowest test grade in the final grade calculation.

You can check the time for all your final exams at <https://registrar.tamu.edu/Courses,-Registration,-Scheduling/Final-Examination-Schedules> (<https://registrar.tamu.edu/Courses,-Registration,-Scheduling/Final-Examination-Schedules>)

## Attendance and Make-up Policies

Attendance is essential to complete this course successfully. “Attending” class is not just physically being present in the room. To really attend class, you should have your preparation work completed by the beginning of class, present your work to the class or your group when requested, share ideas with classmates, and listen attentively when other people share their

ideas. **Please attend and participate in all classes.**

## Excused Absences

University student rules concerning excused and unexcused absences, as well as makeups, can be found at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07> [\\_\(http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07\)\\_](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07). In particular, make-up exams or assignments will typically not be allowed unless a **University approved reason is given to me in writing**. It is **highly recommended** that you notify me before an absence when possible so appropriate arrangements can be made ahead of time. Otherwise (e.g. accident, or emergency), you must notify me **within two business days** of the missed exam, quiz, or assignment to arrange a makeup. I understand that there are some reasons to miss an assignment that are not listed as excused absences, so I will drop one daily grade when I calculate grades at the end of the semester.

## Technical Difficulties

If you experience technical difficulties while completing or submitting work, email me immediately.

We all know that technology is not 100% reliable. Please have a backup plan in place so that minor technical issues do not prevent you from completing work on time. For instance, you should copy Zoom links to a file that you can access from your phone and have a plan of where to go if your normal internet provider or computer is having issues.

## Make-up Exams

Makeup exams will only be allowed due to excused absences and the makeup must be taken as soon as possible after the missed exam/quiz. You will need to schedule to make up your exam within 3 business days of the originally scheduled time to allow for grades to be returned in a timely manner. If you know ahead of time you will be absent during an exam, please notify me in advance.

## Missed Classes

- It is YOUR responsibility to learn what you missed from class, obtain any notes and assignments, and complete assignments by the regularly scheduled due date. In other words, **missing class on the day work was assigned is not a reason for an extension.**
- If class is officially cancelled for any reason, you can expect that the assignments due/taken on the missed class day will be due/taken the next time the class meets. Please also check Canvas for additional information.
- No rule can cover every situation. If you encounter extenuating circumstances, **please communicate** with me as soon as possible.

## **Late Work Policy**

Late work is typically not accepted unless you have a University approved reason and contact me

within 2 working days of the missed assignment.

## Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Sections	Major Assignments Due
Week 1: 8/30 - 9/3	Introduction to the course Describing Sets Set Operations Logic Numeration Systems	Introduction 2.2 2.3 2.1 3.1	
Week 2: 9/6 - 9/10	Numeration Systems	3.1	
Week 3: 9/13 - 9/17	Numeration Systems Addition of Whole Numbers Subtraction of Whole Numbers Multiplication of Whole Numbers	3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4	
Week 4: 9/20 - 9/24	Multiplication of Whole Numbers Division of Whole Numbers	3.4 3.5	FE 1 Due 6 am Monday 9/20
Week 5: 9/27 - 10/1	Introduction to Integers Set of Rational Numbers Exam 1	Chr. 5 6.1 Exam	Exam 1 In class Thursday 9/30
Week 6: 10/4 - 10/8	Set of Rational Numbers Terminating Decimals	6.1 7.1	
Week 7: 10/11 - 10/15	Terminating Decimals Addition, Subtraction, and Estimation with Rational Numbers	7.1 6.2	FE2 Due 6 am Monday 10/11
Week 8: 10/18 - 10/22	Operations on Decimals (Addition and Subtractions) Multiplication, Division, and Estimation with Rational Numbers	7.2 part I 6.3	
Week 9: 10/25 - 10/29	Multiplication, Division, and Estimation with Rational Numbers Operations on Decimals (Multiplication and Division) Repeating Decimals	6.3 7.2 part II 7.3	FE3 Due 6 am Monday 10/25

Week 10: 11/1 - 11/5	Proportional Reasoning Percents	6.4 7.4	
Week 11: 11/8 - 11/12	Real Numbers Integers	7.5 5.1 and 5.2	FE4 Due 6 am Monday 11/8
Week 12: 11/15 - 11/19	Exam 2 Divisibility	Exam 4.1	Exam 2 In Class Tuesday, 11/16
Week 13: 11/22 - 11/26	Prime and Composite Numbers Greatest Common Divisor and Least Common Multiple Thanksgiving Holiday (11/25-11/26)	4.2 4.3 Thanksgiving	FE5 Due 6 am Monday 11/22
Week 14: 11/29 - 12/3	Greatest Common Divisor and Least Common Multiple Variables Patterns Functions Equations	4.3 8.1 1.2 8.3 8.2	
Week 15: 12/6 - 12/9	Wrap up Module 3 Reading Day, Thursday, 12/9	Module 3 Reading Day	
Week 16: 12/10 - 12/15	Final Exams		Final Exam Wednesday, 12/15 Section 501: 8:00 - 10:00 AM Section 502: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

## Optional Course Information Items

### Classroom Environment

Please do your part (attitudes, words, and actions) to make our class a place where everyone can feel comfortable exploring mathematical topics without distractions.

### Office Hour Attendees

I would like office hours to be a casual time when we can gather together in one room (Zoom room this semester) and discuss mathematics. This is like a study hall with some of your classmates and me in the room. This allows you to ask questions when you have them and lets



you listen to other people's questions. You can come and go from office hours as your schedule permits.

Everyone attending office hours will be joining one room, so please mute your microphone when you are not speaking so we are not distracted by the background noise. If no one is speaking, please unmute and ask a question. If you need my attention while someone is talking, please use the chat feature. If you need to speak to me individually, let me know so we can move to a breakout room where the other students cannot hear the conversation.

## Technology Support

As much of our learning experience relies on technology, many people can get overwhelmed when something goes wrong or things get overwhelming. If you are looking for a curation of online learning resources, consider checking out <https://keeplearning.tamu.edu/> (<https://keeplearning.tamu.edu/>)

If your need is specific to a course-related technology issue, consider seeking help from the 24/7 TAMU IT Help Desk. <https://it.tamu.edu/help/> (<https://it.tamu.edu/help/>)

## Learning Resources

### Your Professor

**Communication is essential.** Many issues can be solved with effective communication. Please communicate with me before class, after class, during office hours, and via email.

### Your Textbook

Please review your textbook and complete reading assignments PRIOR to our discussion of that section in class. Even if some of the topics are not clear from your reading, this textbook reading provides a framework in your brain for our discussions.

### Your Class Notes

Please review your notes after each class and ask questions about anything that is not clear. Your notes will be very valuable as you study for exams as well.

### Your Classmates

It is also important to communicate with your classmates. You will learn more and be able to build on each other's ideas if you discuss the material with other people. Please consider setting a regular time to meet. This is a useful idea to carry into your teaching career as well.

### Thoughtful Practice

I strongly recommend that you practice problems from the book. These homework problems, if addressed independently, can provide an "exam-like" experience and provide background for your

Formal Explanations. See the homework list posted in Canvas. You will notice that many of these problems are not like problems from the class notes. The goal is for you to have an opportunity to grapple with thought-provoking problems at your own pace. I will be happy to answer questions after you have worked with the problems. These deeper questions (especially the explanation questions) are great preparation for the exams.

### Office Hours

As mentioned above, office hours are a great time and place to work on your homework and communicate with your classmates and professor.

### Study Hub

TAMU has curated other information helpful to study habits. They are available here:

<https://studyhub.tamu.edu/> [\(https://studyhub.tamu.edu/\)](https://studyhub.tamu.edu/)

### Academic Integrity

You will read more about the Academic Integrity Statement and Policy in the University Policies section. It is VERY important to me that you abide by that policy: “An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.” If you have any questions about whether something would be considered cheating, ask me before you do it. However, here is some general guidance.

- In this course, I encourage you to discuss homework assignments and daily grade assignments and their solutions with your classmates. Study groups are a great way to learn. However, it is NOT permissible to copy homework solutions from another student. Make sure that you understand and could rework anything that you submit for a grade.
- It is NOT permissible to communicate about any aspect of any exam until ALL students have completed the quiz or exam.
- The penalties for violating this policy could include an F on an assignment, exam, or the entire course.

As stated above, for Daily Grades, you may use your book, notes, calculators, internet sources, and even help from other people on as long as you can explain the answers that you submit. Therefore, you are violating the honor code if you submit an answer that you got from another source but do not understand.

For exams, you may not use any sources other than your own brain.

### Copyright of Materials

All class materials (notes, tests, assignments, videos, etc.) are copyrighted and may not be copied, posted, or reproduced without permission.

# University Policies

---

## Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

Please refer to **Student Rule 7** (<https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/>) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

## Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to **Student Rule 7** (<https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/>) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" (**Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1** (<https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/>)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" (**Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2** (<https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/>)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (**See Student Rule 24** (<https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule24/>)).

## Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an

academic misconduct case” (**Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20** [\\_\(https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Rules-and-Procedures/Rules/Honor-System-Rules\)\\_](https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Rules-and-Procedures/Rules/Honor-System-Rules)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at [aggiehonor.tamu.edu](https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu) ([\\_https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/](https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu)).

## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy**

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources office on your campus (resources listed below). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

*Disability Resources is located in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit [disability.tamu.edu](https://disability.tamu.edu) [\\_\(https://disability.tamu.edu/\)](https://disability.tamu.edu).*

## **Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality**

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see **University Rule 08.01.01.M1** [\\_\(https://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/08.01.01.M1.pdf\)\\_](https://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/08.01.01.M1.pdf)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University’s goal

is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

*Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with **Counseling and Psychological Services** (<https://caps.tamu.edu/>)(CAPS).*

*Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's **Title IX webpage** (<https://titleix.tamu.edu/>).*

## **Statement on Mental Health and Wellness**

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care by utilizing available resources and services on your campus.

*Students who need someone to talk to can contact **Counseling & Psychological Services** (<https://caps.tamu.edu/>)(CAPS) or call the **TAMU Helpline** (<https://caps.tamu.edu/helpline/>) (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at **suicidepreventionlifeline.org** (<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>).*

---