

Flexible Course Syllabus

MATH 558, Fall 2020

Introductory Modern Algebra

Due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, the structure of MATH 558 must be flexible in order to best serve you and the other students in our course. For this reason, the syllabus is **subject to change** throughout the semester. Any changes will be guided by the best interest of the class at large, and will be clearly communicated.

Professor	Professor Emily Witt
Email	[lastname]@ku.edu
Website	https://witt.ku.edu/
Sections	27554 TuTh 11 - 12:15 pm Jayhawk Room, 5th floor of Kansas Union 21137 TuTh 1 - 2:15 pm Malott Room, 6th floor of Kansas Union
Textbook	<i>A Concrete Introduction to Higher Algebra</i> (3rd Edition) by L. Childs. This textbook is free and open, available online through the KU Library. See Blackboard for details.
Office hours	Online office hours will be announced each week, with details on the course website.
Hybrid format	Our course is intended to have KU's <i>Hybrid Online</i> format, which means that some class periods will be held in-person, but the large majority of instruction will be in an online format. Our top priority is safety, so the format of each class period will be determined based on external circumstances, and will be clearly communicated.
Course Digest	Regardless of the particular period's format, the Course Digest will be updated Tuesday and Thursday on our course website, with instructions on tasks guiding you to learn the corresponding course material. Students are expected to complete these tasks in a timely manner.
Reading	Reading will be assigned on each course topic.
Videos	Instructional videos on certain important course topics will be posted.
Homework	Traditional homework will be assigned each Tuesday and Thursday, but will not be collected. Since completion is essential to student mastery, you are highly encouraged to take advantage of our course resources.
Investigation modules	Throughout the semester, you will work in teams on Zoom to discover and investigate important topics. You will be carefully complete and submit these module.

Quizzes We will have frequent quizzes throughout the semester, allowing you to gauge your current understanding.

Piazza Our online discussion board will be hosted by [Piazza](#).

Exams Tentatively, will plan to have two midterms and a final exam; these dates are subject to change, and the exam format(s) are to be determined.

Midterm 1 Thursday, September 24

Midterm 2 Tuesday, October 27

Section 27554 Final Wednesday, December 9, 10:30 am - 1 pm

Section 21137 Final Tuesday, December 8, 1:30 - 4 pm

Grades Final grades will tentatively be calculated as follows:

Investigation modules	20%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final exam	25%

Email policies Given that there are two sections of MATH 558 and we will largely communicate online, we must take certain steps to effectively and efficiently communicate via email. Please follow these guidelines:

1. Check the course website, especially the Course Digest, Blackboard, and your peers before asking a procedural question.
2. KU guidelines forbid faculty from responding to course-related emails from students not sent from an official KU email address, so write to me from your KU account.
3. The subject line of every message should be precise, as opposed to vague, and must start with the text `[math-558]`. For example:
`[math-558] A quick question on modular arithmetic`
4. Use standard punctuation, capitalization, spelling and grammar. E.g., do not write `idk how 2 do number 5 ☹ can u help???`
5. Include a proper salutation, and sign your email with your preferred name.
6. If you have a question about math, clearly describe (1) your steps and thought process, and (2) where you are having trouble.

Due to the large volume of emails that I receive, I may not always be able to respond immediately. In such situations, I ask that students be resourceful; e.g., be active on our course discussion board.

Pandemic policies

Safety, health and masks in the classroom. To protect all of us, everyone must wear a mask in the classroom as required by the Protect KU Pledge and by University policy. Violations of the mask policy in classrooms are treated as academic misconduct. If you come to class without a mask, I will ask you to put one on. If you do not put on a mask when asked, you will have to leave class. Violations will be reported, and consequences will follow, up to and including suspension from the course.

Illness and classroom attendance. Please use the CVKey app for self-screening to help determine if you should attend in-person class activities. If you choose not to use the app or do not have a compatible device, please use the paper health assessment form. The app and the paper form are available at cvkey.ku.edu. You will be given an excused absence from in-person class activities (no doctor's note required) if you answer yes to any of the questions in the app or on the paper form. Symptoms and other guidance in the app and on the paper form may change based on new federal, state and local health recommendations and requirements.

It is important that you spend the necessary time working in this course to be successful. If you face challenges to fully participating at any time during the semester, please let me know. Additionally, if you need to report an extended illness or serious accident, please contact Student Support and Case Management at course-adapt@ku.edu or 785-864-4060. A case manager will send email notifications to your instructor(s) on your behalf. When you are able, you will need to follow up with your professors to coordinate a temporary arrangement regarding missed instruction and coursework.

Standard policies

Missed Exams. Make-up exams will be allowed only under truly exceptional circumstances, and must be prearranged with me.

Academic integrity. *Don't cheat.* A case of academic dishonesty on any assignment will result in a grade of zero. Please see the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [University Senate Rules and Regulations](#).

Accommodations. The Student Access Center (SAC) coordinates academic accommodations and services for all eligible KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted SAC, please do so as soon as possible. They are located in 22 Strong Hall and can be reached at 785-864-4064 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at www.access.ku.edu. Please contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course.

Commercial note-taking. Pursuant to the University of Kansas' Policy on Commercial Note-Taking Ventures, commercial note-taking is not permitted in Math 558. Lecture notes, videos, and course materials may be taken for personal use, for the purpose of mastering the course material, and may not be sold to any person or entity in any form. Any student engaged in or contributing to the commercial exchange of notes or course materials will be subject to discipline, including academic misconduct charges, in accordance with University policy. Note-taking provided by a student volunteer for a student with a disability, as a reasonable accommodation under the ADA, is not the same as commercial note-taking and is not covered under this policy.

Concealed Carry: Individuals who choose to carry concealed handguns are solely responsible to do so in a safe and secure manner in strict conformity with [state and federal laws](#) and [KU weapons policy](#). Safety measures outlined in the KU weapons policy specify that a concealed handgun:

- Must be under the constant control of the carrier.
- Must be out of view, concealed either on the body of the carrier, or backpack, purse, or bag that remains under the constant control of the carrier.
- Must be in a holster that covers the trigger area and secures any external hammer in an un-cocked position
- Must have the safety on, and have no round in the chamber.

Tests and quizzes: Instructors are allowed by Kansas Board of Regents policy, to require backpacks, purses and other bags be placed in a specified location that may be out of reach of the individual (e.g., at the front of the class) during exams and quizzes, and as such those items will not be under the constant control of the individual. Students who choose to carry a concealed handgun in a purse, backpack, or bag must review and plan each day accordingly, and are responsible for making alternate arrangements as necessary. The university does not provide appropriate secured storage for concealed handguns.

Individuals who violate the KU weapons policy may be asked to leave campus with the weapon and may face disciplinary action under the appropriate university code of conduct.