Beginning Algebra/ MATH 350.010/Fall 2025

Instructor Information

Name	Tierra Thomas
Office Location	GAB 465
Tutoring Hours	MW 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm; TR 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm in SAGE 120A
Office hours	T 12:30 pm –1:30 pm; F 11:00 am – 11:30 am
Email	Tierra.Thomas@unt.edu *Connect with me through email or by scheduling an appointment with me via Teams (like Zoom). My goal is to respond to you within two business days; however, if you contact me and do not receive a response, please send a follow-up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.*

Course Description, Prerequisites, and Objectives

Course Meeting Time	MW 2:00 pm – 3:20 pm Curry Hall 322
Course Description	3 hours. The course supports students in developing skills, strategies, and reasoning needed to succeed in mathematics, including communication and appropriate use of technology. Topics include the study of numeracy and the real number system; algebraic concepts, notation, and reasoning; quantitative relationships; mathematical models; and problem solving
Course Prerequisites	This course is designed to support students who did not meet the minimum score on the TSI and is considered TSI Incomplete.
Course Objectives	Upon successful completion of this course, students will: 1. Use appropriate symbolic notation and vocabulary to communicate, interpret, and explain mathematical concepts. 2. Define, represent, and perform operations on real numbers, applying numeric reasoning to investigate and describe quantitative relationships and solve real world problems in a variety of contexts. 3. Use algebraic reasoning to solve problems that require ratios, rates, percentages, and proportions in a variety of contexts using multiple representations. 4. Apply algebraic reasoning to manipulate expressions and equations to solve real world problems. 5. Use graphs, tables, and technology to analyze, interpret, and compare data sets. 6. Construct and use mathematical models in verbal, algebraic, graphical, and tabular form to solve problems from a variety of contexts and to make predictions and decisions

Course Structure

This is a 16-week course that meets face-to-face in a classroom two times a week. The course will cover 4 modules and you will be assessed by completing 4 exams and a cumulative final exam.

Course Materials/Required Materials

Knewton Alta

For this course, there is no need to purchase Knewton Alta, as it will be provided at **no cost**. Knewton is the **required** online adaptive proficiency-based learning software.

Note-taking Materials

- A notebook or spiral (120+ pages) dedicated to taking written notes from class
- A notebook or spiral dedicated to completing online homework in Knewton
- Writing utensils, such as pencils or erasable pens (ex: friXion pens)

Knewton Alta Technical Support

Knewton Alta offers Technical Support (https://support.knewton.com/s/)

Calculator Policy

A basic 4-function calculator will be allowed on select topics in the course. There is no need to purchase a basic calculator, as one will be provided on exams. The basic calculator will have fewer buttons and does NOT include a button that has +/- (positive/negative).

Technical Requirements & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirement	• Computer, tablet, or laptop that is compatible with all required apps for the course • Reliable internet access • Canvas Technical Requirements (https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)
Computer Skills & Digital Literacy	• Navigate Canvas and Knewton • Message electronically through Canvas Inbox • Complete assignments online (Canvas, Knewton) • Scanning documents and saving as PDF

If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content.

Course Requirements

Evaluation components include activities, attendance, homework, modules exams and the final exam. Description of each component follows:

Activities – 5%
Attendance – 5%
Homework (Knewton) – 20%
Module Exams – 50%
Final Exam – 20%

Course Grade

Your course grade is determined by your performance on the graded items. There will be no opportunity for extra credit, nor will the grades be curved. Your grades will be posted in Canvas Grades.

- A [90, 100+), The student performs well above the minimum criteria.
- B [80, 90), The student performs above the minimum criteria.
- C [70, 80), The student meets the minimum criteria.
- NP [0, 70), The student does not meet the minimum criteria.

Activities

Student activities may be completed during class time and will require active participation, while some activities may be completed outside of class time. Activities may include time management, discussions, self-reflection writing prompts, etc.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken every class period and will be worth 5% of the course grade. The attendance grade will begin at zero and will increase 3.5 points EACH day for active participation and positive contributions to the class. If a student arrives late or leaves early, then full points may not be earned for that day.

Students will be able to earn back attendance credit by attending the Early Math Support Lab (Sage 120A), as long as: (1) Make-up session(s) **must** be completed in the Early Math Support Lab within two (2) weeks of absence; (2) signed in and actively working in the Early Math Support Lab; and (3) attendance in the lab *cannot* be used for extra credit.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to allow you the opportunity to learn, practice, and retain new skills. Continued practice is how you learn, so it is crucial for you to carve out *regular time* to work on developing and improving your skills. Expect to have two (2) – five (5) Knewton assignments per week, starting the first week of classes.

For your convenience, all coursework is accessible directly through Canvas. Be sure to maintain a dedicated notebook or spiral for your math homework, where you can write out all your work, including the steps for solving each exercise.

What is Knewton?

Knewton is a proficiency-based adaptive software designed to assess and enhance your learning progress through assignments. Here's how it works:

- **Proficiency-Based**: Knewton provides enough exercises to determine if you have achieved proficiency in the learning objectives.
- **Adaptive:** The software adjusts based on your performance. Students who prepare well typically progress through assignments more quickly, while those needing additional practice will see more exercises to reinforce learning.
- **No limits on Attempts**: There is no limit on the number of attempts per question.
- **Earn 100%:** You can achieve 100% on every assignment (before the due date) regardless of the number of attempts, as Knewton focuses on your learning progress rather than the number of tries.
- **Grace period:** If 100% is not achieved by due date, you have the opportunity to complete the assignment up to 2 days past the due date for a deduction of 5% per day. However, if the assignment is not complete within 48 hours, then grade will remain as it was submitted on the due date.

Exams

There will be four (4) exams given during the semester. Note: There are **no retakes** on exams.

Final Exam

The Final Exam is comprehensive and will test the student's math skills on all content covered throughout the entire semester. This exam will be taken during the last week of classes at the time specified in the official Final Exam Schedule.

Course Policies

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating will not be tolerated. Any student found cheating will receive a zero on the assignments; and may receive an F for the course, if found cheating on an exam. A report will be filed with the Office of Academic Integrity. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, discussing exam items with any student currently enrolled in

this course; posting exam items and/or exam-related questions on messaging apps; accessing notes, textbook, or ANY source of help during a test AND providing help as well.

The Academic Integrity Policy (PDF) states: According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

GenAI Policy - Prohibited Use

In this course, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini is not permissible. Any attempt to represent GenAI output as inappropriately as a student's own work will be considered a violation of academic integrity and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Attendance/Active Participation

Being engaged in a class will have its ups and downs but please make a commitment to yourself that you will stay actively engaged and on-task each week, as active participation is important and vital to your success. In this class, attendance means physically attending class and staying actively engaged in discussions, along with taking notes. As a side note, I have great respect for students who are balancing the demands of their coursework along with the responsibilities of life beyond the classroom. However, if you run into challenges that cause you to fall behind in class, please contact me immediately so we can work together, as there may be resources available to assist and support you.

Examination Policy

There will be four (4) module exams and one (1) final exam during the semester. Keep a record of all your scores. Be sure to review your module exams once they have been reviewed by the instructor and officially graded.

Examination Etiquette

Exams will be taken in the classroom during our regular class meetings. When it is time for the exam, the following lists the expectations:

- Place all papers, textbooks, notes, etc. in a backpack or a book bag and close it securely.
- Turn off/remove all electronic devices (unless medically necessary), this includes cell phones, headphones, laptops, smartwatches, etc.
- Handling of ANY such electronic devices during an exam will be construed as cheating (receiving unauthorized aid) and may result in a zero for that exam.
- Do not wear hats or caps with brims during exams.
- Do not share any materials during an exam. This includes, but is not limited to pencils, erasers, calculators, etc.
- Only approved calculators during select exams. It is your responsibility to know how to work the calculator on the test.
- Have only the exam, pencil(s), eraser and occasionally a calculator or a straight edge out during an exam. There will be space to show work on the actual exam.
- You will not be permitted to have any of your own scratch paper during an exam.

Missed Exam Policy

- **Early Exam**: If you have a known conflict with a scheduled exam date, you are highly encouraged to request to take your exam early. The request must be emailed to instructor at least one week prior to the scheduled exam date, as this allows enough time to make proper adjustments/arrangements. If a student does not take a scheduled exam, a zero will be recorded for that exam and a notice may be sent through the registrar's office.
- **University excused absence**: If you are unable to arrange to take an exam early **and** have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy (PDF) , then student will need to make up missed exam within 2 business days of returning to campus.
- **Unexcused absence:** If you have an unexcused absence, then a zero will be recorded for that exam grade and your final exam will replace that one zero, up to a maximum grade of 75%. This allowance is for one (1) missed exam. Any additional missed exams will receive a grade of zero. If you receive a zero for academic dishonesty on an exam, the final exam score will NOT replace that zero.

Late Work Policy

UNT is a community of dreamers and doers who pursue excellence in everything. With that in mind, there are standards and expectations set for the class, which includes that work will be completed and submitted by the posted due date. If the due time conflicts with your schedule, plan ahead and work early. **Late work is not accepted**. In other words, if an assignment is not completed and submitted by the due date, then unfortunately a grade of zero will be recorded.

Important Dates

Date	Importance of Date
Aug 18	Classes Begin
Aug 29	Census Date
Sept 1	Labor Day (no classes)
Nov 7	Last day for a student to drop a course with a W.
Nov 8	Beginning this date, a student who qualifies may request an Incomplete, with a grade of I.
Nov 24 – 30	Thanksgiving Break (University closed)
Dec 3 – 4	Pre-finals Days
Dec 4	Last Regular Class Meeting
Dec 5	Reading Day (no classes)
Dec 6 – 12	Final Exams

Emergency Notification and Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials. Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049).

Changes to Syllabus

Changes made to the syllabus will be posted as an Announcement in Canvas, so make sure that notifications in Canvas are set correctly.

Weekly Modules/Schedule of Due Dates

Week 1

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
08/18/25	M1.1 Whole Numbers M1.2 Evaluating & Simplifying Expressions	Homework (20%) Homework (20%)
08/19/25		
08/20/25	M1.2 Evaluating & Simplifying Expressions (cont'd) M1.3 Intro to Equations	Homework (20%) Homework (20%)
08/21/25		
08/22/25		

Week 2

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
08/25/25	M1.4 Multiples and Factors M1.5 Intro to Integers M1.6 Add and Subtract Integers	Homework (20%) Homework (20%) Homework (20%)
08/26/25		
08/27/25	M1.7 Multiply and Divide Integers M1.8 Solve Equ Using Integers & Division Property of Equality	Homework (20%) Homework (20%)
08/28/25		

08/29/25		

Week 3

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
09/01/25	*Holiday - No Classes*	
09/02/25		
09/03/25	M1.9 Intro to Fractions M1.10 Reduce and Multiplying Fraction M1.11 Reciprocals & Divide Fractions	Homework (20%) Homework (20%) Homework (20%)
09/04/25		
09/05/25		

Week 4

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
09/08/25	M1.12 Add or Subtract Fractions M1.13 Combining Fraction Operations M1.14 Solve Equations involving Fractions.	Homework (20%) Homework (20%) Homework (20%)
09/09/25		
09/10/25	M1.14 Solve Equations involving Fractions (cont'd) Module 1 Review	Homework (20%)
09/11/25		
09/12/25		

Week 5

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
09/15/25	**Module 1 Exam**	**Exam (50%)**
09/16/25		
09/17/25	M2.1 Decimals, Unit Price and Ratios M2.2 Solving Applications Involving Percent	Homework (20%) Homework (20%)
09/18/25		
09/19/25		

Week 6

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
09/22/25	M2.3 Solving Simple Interest Applications	Homework (20%)
09/23/25		
09/24/25	M2.4 Algebraic Properties	Homework (20%)
09/25/25		
09/26/25		

Week 7

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
09/29/25	M2.5 Solving More Equations	Homework (20%)
	M2.6 Solving Linear Inequalities	Homework (20%)
09/30/25		
10/01/25	M2.7 Problem Solving - Part I	Homework (20%)
	M2.8 Problem Solving – Part II	Homework (20%)
10/02/25		
10/03/25		

Week 8

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
10/06/25	M2.8 Problem Solving – Part II (cont'd)	Homework (20%)
	Module 2 Review	
10/07/25		
10/08/25	**Module 2 Exam**	**Exam (50%)**
10/09/25		
10/10/25		

Week 9

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
10/13/25	M3.1 Rectangular Coordinate System	Homework (20%)
	M3.2 Graph Linear Equations	Homework (20%)
10/14/25		
10/15/25	M3.3 Intercepts	Homework (20%)
	M3.4 Slope	Homework (20%)
	M3.5 Slope-Intercept Form	Homework (20%)
10/16/25		
10/17/25		

Week 10

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
10/20/25	M3.5 Slope-Intercept Form (cont'd)	Homework (20%)
	M3.6 Equations of lines	Homework (20%)
10/21/25		
10/22/25	M4.1 Add & Subtract Polynomials	Homework (20%)
	Module 3 Review	
10/23/25		
10/24/25		

Week 11

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
10/27/25	**Module 3 Exam**	**Exam (50%)**
10/28/25		
10/29/25	M4.2 Product Properties of Exponents M4.3 Multiplying Polynomials	Homework (20%) Homework (20%)
10/30/25		
10/31/25		

Week 12

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
11/03/25	M4.4 Quotient Properties M4.5 Negative Exponents & Scientific Notation	Homework (20%) Homework (20%)
11/04/25		
11/05/25	M4.6 GCF and Factor by Grouping	Homework (20%)
11/06/25		
11/07/25		

Week 13

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
11/10/25	M4.7 Factoring Trinomials	Homework (20%)
11/11/25		
11/12/25	M4.8 Special Products & Mixed Factoring	Homework (20%)
11/13/25		
11/14/25		

Week 14

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
11/17/25	**Module 4 Review**	
11/18/25		
11/19/25	**Module 4 Exam**	**Exam (50%)**
11/20/25		
11/21/25		

November 24 – 28 Thanksgiving Break – No Classes

Week 15

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
12/01/25	Review	
12/02/25		
12/03/25	Review	
12/04/25		
12/05/25	Reading Day (No classes)	

Week 16

Due Date	Topic	Assignment Type
12/08/25	**Final Exam, see Final Exam Schedule**	**Final Exam (20%)**

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

UNT Policies

In addition to standards for success in courses, there are UNT policies and procedures in place to support students. You can access these policies in Navigate (Navigate.unt.edu), in Canvas under the Help menu, in EIS, and on the Student Support Services & Policies page, which includes:

- Policies include:
    - Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation, Academic Integrity Policy, ADA Policy and Retention of Student Records
- Student Expectations and Preferences include:
    - Acceptable Student Behavior, Use of Student Work, Important Notice for F-1 Students Taking Distance Education Courses, Student Verification
- Student Wellness and Academic Resources include:
    - Survivor Advocacy, Mental Health, Technical Assistance, Academic Support Services and Additional Student Support Services
- Communications include:
    - Eagle Connect, Emergency Notification and Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use "I" statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individuals' experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people's ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as "YELLING!"
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using "text-talk" unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.