



MTH 50: Number Sense and Critical Thinking

General Information

Instructor Information and Availability

Instructor name: Sarah Whelchel

Instructor pronouns: She/Her

E-mail address: whelchs@linnbenton.edu

Drop-In hours: Math Cafe 9am-11am Monday-Friday

Math Instructional Assistant (IA): Misa Hargraves

IA pronouns: She/Her

IA Email address: hargram@linnbenton.edu

IA Math Support Hours: Zoom Hours - Monday's 2pm-3pm and Friday's 11am-12pm,
Math Cafe Friday's 2pm-4pm

Course Information

Course name: MTH 50: Number Sense and Critical Thinking

Section number: 02

CRN: 43497

Scheduled time/days (Face to Face): T/Th 12-1:50pm

Number of credits: 4 Credits

Classroom: Willamette Hall 208

Prerequisites: NONE

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Information

Safety is extremely important to the LBCC community, and information is an important component in keeping all of us safe. COVID is one of our top concerns, so for the most current information on COVID-19 and LBCC, please visit the following websites:

LBCC Status Updates

<https://www.linnbenton.edu/about-lbcc/college-services/safety/covid19/index.php>

Benton County Health Department:

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/health>

Course Materials

Required Course Materials:

- Tablet or Laptop (available for purchase or rent in the LBCC Bookstore if you don't have one.) [Minimum specifications for use with ALEKS360 software:](https://www.aleks.com/support/system_requirements)
https://www.aleks.com/support/system_requirements
- ALEKS360 access code **for 52 weeks** (also used in MTH 75 and 95).
- **MTH 50 Course Materials Packet** - to be ordered through the LBCC Bookstore
- Scientific Calculator or a calculator app on your tablet or laptop

ALEKS Class Code : **DLMP4-P4TXJ**

ALEKS Temporary 2-Week Financial Aid Code: **ABF4A-9A8F6-2FA45-D07B6**

Optional Course Materials:

- Three ring binder for your course activity packet, ALEKS notes and course notes.

Computers:

Computer labs are open to students in the Library and in the Learning Center.

Laptops are usually available for short-term check out from the Library.

MTH 50 Course Description:

Math 050, is an awesome course. It focuses on numerical literacy and on the four basic mathematical operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, exponents, and square roots, and using them to model problems with both estimations and exact answers. Students will develop skills in basic arithmetic algorithms, including the use of formulas and basic geometry. The metric system, conversion of measurement units, and scientific notation is introduced. Signed numbers are introduced, including operations. Math 050 is presented with an emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving.

MTH 50 Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate proficiency in estimating and comparing results of mathematical calculations and determine the reasonableness of the answer.
2. Perform the four basic mathematical operations on whole numbers, fractions, and decimals to obtain exact answers both with and without a calculator.
3. Model and solve problems using the four basic mathematical operations.
4. Demonstrate understanding and knowledge of the use of units including labeling measurements, applying units to solutions, and converting units by using dimensional analysis.

5. Perform operations involving signed numbers including exponents and evaluating expressions.

Class Policies

Grading (grades can be found in the MOODLE Gradebook)

ALEKS Weekly Objectives/Homework (22%)

ALEKS Whole Pie (5%)

Class Activities (20%)

Math Concept Chats (5%)

Attendance/Participation (4%)

ALEKS Skills Test 1 and 3 (10% each)

Concept Tests 2 and 4 (12% each)

Final Grade Calculation:

- A = 90-100% Excellent Work
- B = 80-89% Good Work
- C = 70-79% Average Work
- D = 60-69% Poor Work
- F = 0-59% Failing Work

Late Assignment Policy

No late assignments, or makeup tests without legitimate reasoning. (I had to work is not a legitimate reason, but I had to go to the ER definitely is!)

Pass/No Pass Grading Option

Students in this course have the option to select P/NP grading. Students earn a P grade if they opt for P/NP grading at registration and are otherwise earning an A, B, or C in the course. Students who opt for P/NP grading and are earning less than a C in the course will receive an NP.

A grade of Incomplete may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor under special circumstances. The student must have completed the majority of the course, been in regular attendance and was passing the course prior to the "special circumstance".

Drop for non-attendance or non-participation

During the first week of the term, the instructor may drop students for not attending class, not completing work, and not completing the ALEKS knowledge check by a certain day.

Testing

- The **ALEKS Skills Tests 1 and 3 (online)** will be taken in the Testing Center in RCH-111. Once the instructor has signed your testing ticket, you will have a few days to go in and take the test on your own time. These tests are taken in ALEKS and they are not timed. Refer to the test ticket for further information.
- The **Concept Tests 2 and 4 (written)** will be taken in the Testing Center in RCH-111. Once the instructor has signed your testing ticket, you will have a few days to go in and take the test on your own time. These tests are not timed. Refer to the test ticket for further information.
- There are no retests allowed for this course.
- There is not a final exam for this course.

Homework

ALEKS is an adaptive online homework website (www.aleks.com). You will **need to purchase an access code** in order to get logged in. Your skills work will be completed on this site. Each week's skills will be available for a given length of time and you must learn those skills and demonstrate mastery by the deadline date and time. Your score at the time of the deadline will be recorded as a homework grade for that week. You should finish learning the topics AND complete the weekly knowledge check before the deadline so you can go back and relearn any topics still needed from previous weeks. Students who finish their ALEKS work before the deadline can work on other topics in the course pie. **Make sure to use the Financial Aid Code (near the top of the second page of this syllabus)**, until you can purchase the access code.

ALEKS Homework Guidelines

You should keep a notebook of loose-leaf paper for your ALEKS homework. You are expected to work through each problem and then write up neat, readable solutions for your notebook. Include the original problem unless it is a lengthy word problem. This will give you a study reference before testing.

In-Class Work and Activities

Students will be actively participating in learning activities and group work every class meeting. **Generally**, these activities will be worked on in class, turned in (via Moodle) no later than the start of the next class day, and cannot be made up. These are the

lessons for this course. The activities are designed to help students develop and understand the concepts behind the math skills and how to apply them to various situations. The experiences gained from working in the groups will be a major component in determining the student's success in this course. **Attendance is therefore required.** **At the end of the quarter your two lowest scores from this category will be dropped.**

Behavior and Expectations

Teacher Expectations

- Expect your instructor to be prepared for class.
- Expect your instructor to answer emails/messages in a timely manner.
- Expect your instructor to conduct themselves professionally, in and out of the classroom.

Student Expectations

- Your instructor expects you to be involved in class. (This includes being present, asking questions and participating in discussions and group work.)
- Your instructor expects you to be prepared. (This means you should bring your packet/notebook, tablet or laptop, etc. in addition to having your work with you)
- You can expect to spend **at least 8 hours per week working on class activities/assignments.**
- Your instructor expects you to be respectful of everyone in the class (in word as well as behavior.) Along these lines, I ask that you **turn off and/or put away your cell phone**, mp3 player, laptop, etc. during class **unless** it is being used for an activity so as to avoid causing a distraction.
- Your instructor expects professional communication (to include but not limited to emailing, messaging)
- Your instructor expects you to follow all LBCC safety protocols on COVID.

Academic Honesty:

I assume that you are ethical and honest. However, if there is an incident of academic dishonesty (cheating), you will receive a score of zero for that test/assignment and the incident will be reported to the college administration for possible further disciplinary action. If there is a second offense, you will receive a grade of F for the course and the incident will be reported to the college administration with a recommendation for disciplinary action. You are held accountable to the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Attendance Policy

If you miss four hours of class (1/10 of the class) you will get a warning. If you miss eight hours of class (20% of the class) your final course grade will drop one letter grade. Essentially, there are five letter grades, and if you miss 1/5th of the class, you will not be eligible for the top letter grade.

Communication Guidelines

You are responsible for communication via ALEKS/Moodle and/or your LBCC email account. You are **required** to use your LBCC provided email account **for all email** communications at the College. You may access your LBCC student email account through Student Email. Again, be professional in all communication with your instructor.

Math Resources/Help

If you have questions, PLEASE **come talk with your instructor!** Your instructor has scheduled Drop-In hours but you're welcome to come in at other times too. **Study groups** are encouraged! Many students find that working with classmates is the best way to learn and understand the material. Don't forget about the e-book and videos available on ALEKS.

In-Person Support

Use the Learning Center / Math Support (Café)

The Learning Center, **WH226**, is an excellent place to study and to get help with your homework. (Please remember to log on and log off the computer with each visit to the Learning Center.) The Albany campus has the Math Café in WH-227, which is connected to the Learning Center.

- There is free wireless available in the Math Café and the Learning Center (and lots of places to plug in so your battery won't be depleted.)
- The relaxed atmosphere and table arrangement in the Math Café and the Learning Center provide a great location for **study groups** to meet and work.
- Instructional assistants are available in the Math Cafe to answer your math, ALEKS, and study skills questions for Math 50, 75, 95 and 98.
- The Learning Center is not currently offering Face to Face tutoring for small groups or individual students, please see "Virtual Support" section.

Virtual Support

Learning Center Discord / Math Support (Café) Zoom/ Free LBCC Tutoring

- Learning Center Discord is great to chat/text with other students and it is frequently staffed with support for Writing, Mathematics, and other disciplines. Definitely worth checking into. Here is the discord link: (note there is a 10 min waiting period before you can post.)
<https://discord.com/invite/geMqSqV>
- Math Support (Café) Zoom, link below:
<https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/94627678411>
- Free LBCC Tutoring. Click on the link below that instructs you on how to sign up for Free tutoring:
<https://www.linnbenton.edu/student-services/library-tutoring-testing/learning-center/tutoring/index.php>

Campus Policies

Disability and Access Statement

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in the class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the [CFAR Website](#) for steps on how to apply for services or call [\(541\) 917-4789](tel:5419174789).

Statement of Inclusion

To promote academic excellence and learning environments that encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas, all courses at LBCC will provide students the opportunity to interact with values, opinions, and/or beliefs different than their own in safe, positive and nurturing learning environments. LBCC is committed to producing culturally literate individuals capable of interacting, collaborating and problem-solving in an ever-changing community and diverse workforce.

[Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

Basic Needs Statement

Any student who has difficulty affording food or finding a safe and stable place to live, or who needs assistance with resources for transportation, childcare, etc., is urged to contact the [Roadrunner Resource Center](#) for support and referral to community resources. Also, please talk with your instructor if you are comfortable doing so. This can help them direct you to the appropriate office and resource.

Title IX Reporting Policy

If you or another student are the victim of any form of sexual misconduct (including dating/domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment), or any form of gender discrimination, LBCC can assist you. You can [report](#) a violation of our sexual misconduct policy directly to our Title IX Coordinator. You may also report the issue to a faculty member, who is required to notify the Coordinator, or you may make an appointment to speak confidentially to our Advising and Career Center by calling 541-917-4780.

Public Safety/Emergency Resources:

In an emergency, call 911. Also, call [LBCC Public Safety and Loss Prevention Office](#) at 541-926-6855 and 541-917-4440.

From any LBCC phone, you may alternatively dial extension 411 or 4440. LBCC has a [public safety app](#) available for free. We encourage people to download it to their cell phones. Public Safety also is the home for LBCC's Lost & Found. They provide escorts for safety when needed. Visit them to learn more.

Changes to the Syllabus

I reserve the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. You will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through ALEKS, Moodle, and/or through LBCC e-mail.

Tentative Class Schedule

Please see the tentative class schedule for the overall plan for this term.

Lastly, let's have a great term!