

Course Information Sheet: Math 34600, Section E, Fall 2017

Course Title: Elements of Linear Algebra

Pre-requisite: Math 20300 *or* **co-requisite:** Math 203 and departmental permission

Catalog Description: Vector spaces, basis and dimension, matrices, linear transformations, determinants, solution of systems of linear equations, eigenvalues, and eigenvectors.

Meeting time and place: Mondays and Wednesdays 2-3:15pm in NAC 5/109.

Instructor Information:

- **Name:** Prof. Patrick Hooper
- **Office hours:** Currently Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm (on any day our class meets). Appointments are also accepted. See class website for updated office hours.
- **Office:** NAC 6/282
- **Email:** whooper@ccny.cuny.edu
- **Office Phone:** (212) 650-5149

Course Textbook:

- *Introduction to Linear Algebra*, Fifth Edition, by Gilbert Strang. Published by Wellesley-Cambridge Press.

I anticipate covering most of the material from Chapters 1-6 and 8 of *Introduction to Linear Algebra* and possibly some additional topics if there is sufficient time. Other sources may be used as well.

Grades: Grades will be computed from the following:

- Attendance
- Take home quizzes (20%)
- First Midterm (20%): Wednesday, October 4th.
- Second Midterm (20%): Wednesday, November 8th.
- Final Exam (40%): Wednesday, December 20th from 1:00pm to 3:15pm in our usual classroom.

Your final score will be tabulated out of 100% as indicated by the percentages above, with attendance taken into account. (See the attendance section below.) A letter grade will be assigned to you according to the table below.

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|----|--------|----|-------|----|-------|---|-------|---|------|
| A+ | 97-100 | B+ | 87-89 | C+ | 77-79 | | | | |
| A | 95-96 | B | 84-86 | C | 74-76 | D | 60-69 | F | 0-59 |
| A- | 90-94 | B- | 80-83 | C- | 70-73 | | | | |

Course information: Course information can be found on the course website,

<http://wphooper.com/teaching/2017-fall-346/>.

This includes lists of homework assignments and a collection of course documents.

Blackboard: I use blackboard to keep track of your grades, and you can view your grades there. To access blackboard visit <http://bbhosted.cuny.edu/>.

Philosophy of the class: This is an upper level undergraduate mathematics course. As such, I expect students to develop a theoretical understanding of the subject. In particular, proof writing will be essential to pass the course. On the other hand, I do not have an expectation that you have written proofs before.

Expectations of time devoted to class: For each hour spent in the classroom, I expect you to spend at least three hours reading and understanding the book, understanding lecture notes, and doing homework. Practice (doing problems and writing proofs) is an important part of understanding mathematics. Only adequate practice will guarantee that you can complete midterm and exam problems in a timely manner.

Expectations of written work: Mathematical computations and proofs will be graded partially on presentation. In order to receive full credit, a student who reads your answer should be able to easily understand how you solved the problem. Written work is expected to be legible and arguments are expected to be well articulated.

Email: It is important that you are accessible via email through blackboard. To change or update your email address on blackboard: Log in to blackboard (<http://bbhosted.cuny.edu/>). Click the Update Email link in the Tools box on the left side of the HOME tab. This will display the email currently in use by Blackboard and allow you to change it to a CUNY email address. (This will not change the email address used in the CUNY Portal or any other CUNY system. It will only change the email used by Blackboard.)

Final exam: The final exam will be held on Wednesday, December 20th from 1:00pm to 3:15pm according to the university's final exam schedule. Ensure that you have no time conflicts. A makeup for the final exam is offered only under extremely compelling circumstances. Notify me as soon as you know you will have to miss the final.

Our final exam may not be similar to final exams listed on the department webpage.

Midterms: Your midterm grade constitutes 40% of your total grade in the class, with each of the two midterms counting for 20%. A grade of zero will be assigned for midterms missed without a good reason. Makeup midterms will only be given only under compelling circumstances.

Homework assignments: Homework will be assigned in class as we cover new topics and assignments will be listed on the course website. I encourage you to work in groups on the homework problems, especially if this best suits your learning style. Nonetheless, you should be confident that you understand how to do each problem, and should be able to solve similar problems independently. Failure to ensure that you can solve problems independently will surely have a negative effect on exam grades.

Take home quizzes: I will often assign take home quizzes. You will not be allowed to work with others to complete these quizzes. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped. There are no makeups for take home quizzes and late assignments will not be accepted. If you miss class on the day a take home quiz is due, please scan and email your answer to me before the start of class.

Attendance Policy: As students, class time is extremely important for learning. You will be introduced to the material, and the relative importance of topics in the course will be revealed. For this reason, attendance is mandatory. **Missing an excess of eight 50 minute periods (or 4**

classes) may result in you being dropped from the course, and will certainly result in the reduction of your final grade by 5% (or half a letter grade). Occasionally, exceptions to this policy will be made, but only for good reason and only with notification prior to the absence. Good reasons include illness with a doctor's note and many religious observations.

Lateness: Lateness to class is unacceptable because it disrupts the learning process of the whole class. For this reason, any student who arrives more than 5 minutes after class begins will be considered late. Three late attendances are considered the equivalent of one absence. Thus, sufficiently many late attendances will result in actions as described in the Attendance Policy. In addition, any student who arrives 15 minutes after a class begins will be considered absent from that class period.

Academic integrity: You are expected to adhere to the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity. This policy is posted at <http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/about/integrity.cfm>. As a particular note, you are required to acknowledge sources used when turning in work including homework. This includes disclosing collaborators on homework problems.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the AccessAbility Center (AAC). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility from the AAC, which is located in NAC 1/218. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the AAC and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.