

Syllabus for Math 2331, Fall 2012

Linear Algebra

Instructor: Dr. Mark Tomforde

Office: 601 PGH

Instructor Web Site: www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde

Course Web Site: www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/Math2331F12.html

Office Hours: Monday 10:00–10:50AM

Wednesday 10:00–10:50AM

Friday 10:00–10:50AM

Note About Office Hours: I encourage you to come by my office if you have any questions, need help with homework problems, or would just like to talk about the material. If for some reason you are unable to make it to Office Hours, you are welcome to email me to set up an appointment.

Meeting Times: Lecture: MWF Noon–12:50PM in 102 SEC.

Course Description: This class serves as an introduction to Linear Algebra. Topics include: systems of linear equations, matrices, vector spaces, linear independence, linear transformations, similarity of matrices, eigenvalues, and eigenvectors. This course may be more abstract than courses you've had in the past (such as Calculus). More emphasis will be placed on understanding the topics and applying them in different situations than in simply doing rote calculations.

Prerequisites: Math 1432 (Calculus II).

Text: Linear Algebra and Its Applications, 4th Ed., by David Lay.

Course Web Page: The course web page is located at

www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/Math2331F12.html

On the course web page you will find the homework as it is assigned, as well as a copy of this syllabus, exam dates, and announcements as they are made.

Grading: The final grade for the class will be determined as follows:

Class Participation:	10%
Quizzes:	25%
Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Final Exam:	25%

Attendance: It is vital to attend every lecture and pay attention. Some lecture material does not appear in the text. Questions on the exams and quizzes will be drawn from homework, reading, and lectures. I also encourage you to ask questions and participate in class. As stated above, 10% of your final grade will be based on class participation.

Reading: Reading assignments will be given weekly on the course web page. Completing the reading assignments is just as critical as doing the written homework.

Homework and Quizzes: A list of homework problems will be given every week on the course web page. You should do all the homework problems, and make sure you are comfortable with the material that they cover — however, homework will not be collected. Instead, we will have a 10-minute quiz every Friday in class. Quizzes cannot be made up at a later time, and missing a quiz results in a score of 0. Your lowest quiz score throughout the semester will be dropped when calculating your final grade. This is meant to account for unexpected absences (e.g., illness or getting caught in traffic). Although homework is not collected, it is vital to do the homework exercises to prepare for the quizzes and exams. You should keep in mind that . . .

“You learn mathematics by doing mathematics.”

Expect to spend approximately three hours working on homework outside of class for every hour spent in class. There is a graduate student grader for the course. If you have any issues with the way a quiz or a particular problem is graded, please contact me.

Exams: There will be two exams and one final.

Exam 1: Friday, Sept. 28

Exam 2: Friday, Nov. 2

Final: Wednesday, Dec. 19, 11AM–2PM.

Please bring your Student ID to exams. You may be asked to show it to prove that you are the student whose name is on the exam you turn in.

Makeup Policy: In general, not being present for a quiz or exam results in a score of zero, and you will not be allowed to make up the work. Exceptions may be made in the case of extreme circumstances, such as a documented, serious illness. In the event that you cannot be present to take an exam on the day it is held you need to speak to me *in advance*, and make every attempt to do the work *before* (and not after) the rest of the class.

No Class: There will be no class on Friday, September 21, because I will be out of town to give a colloquium talk at another university

Policy on Incompletes: Incompletes are given only in very unusual circumstances, and never just to prevent a bad grade or provide the student with more time to prepare for an exam.

Honor Principal: University of Houston students are expected to adhere to the Academic Honesty Policy (see the Student Handbook for more details). In this course this shall mean the following: Quizzes and exams shall be worked on independently and without the use of your textbook, homework, or class notes. Moreover, if you are aware of anyone who is cheating or receiving unfair, outside assistance, you are honor bound to inform the instructor of what is occurring.

Anyone caught cheating will receive a failing grade in the course and be turned over to the department chair and dean for further disciplinary action.

Special Needs: Any student with a disability or chronic health problem for whom special accommodations would be helpful is encouraged to discuss with the instructor the types of assistance that might be offered.