

# Day 1 Stuff

## First lecture - MATH 371

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Prof. Chris Cornwell

August, 2025

Towson University, Dept. of Mathematics

## About me

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- *Prefer to be called:* Chris or Dr. Cornwell
- *Preferred pronouns:* He/him/his
- *Email:* ccornwell@towson.edu
- *Office:* YR 227
- *Likes:* Enthusiastic about math; like traveling, hiking, soccer, and gaming.

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If I don't respond quickly to an email or message, it does not mean that I am declining to answer. During the week, I make an effort to return messages within 24 hours.

Please visit office hours. I am happy to discuss questions you have and class topics.

**Regular office hours:** Tuesday 9:00 – 10:00 am, Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Otherwise, please email to make an appointment at another time.

Course structure

Course resources

## What is this course about?

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Fundamentals of machine learning.

Basics of Python, implementing machine learning (on data) in Python.

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- Potentially (time permitting): Tree-based methods or clustering.

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- A final project.

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- Grades: 10% classwork, 30% homework, 30% two midterms (15% *each*), and 30% final.

## In class

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- *Occasionally, instead of group work questions we may have questions (given as a poll to class), followed by group discussions.*

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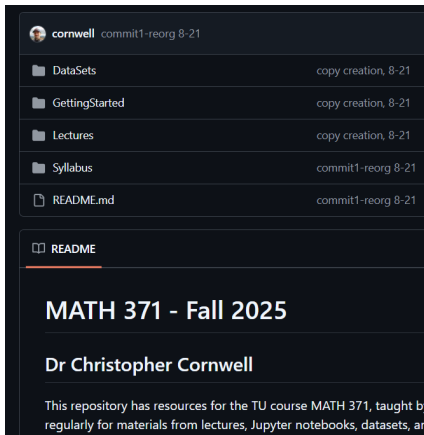
- Midterm 1: planned for Thursday, October 2.
- Midterm 2: planned for Thursday, November 13.
- Final projects due: Tuesday, Dec 9.

Course structure

Course resources

## Course on Github

Many class resources will be on the Github repository [here](#).



The screenshot shows a GitHub repository interface. At the top, the user 'cornwell' is listed with a commit date of '8-21'. Below this is a list of files and folders:

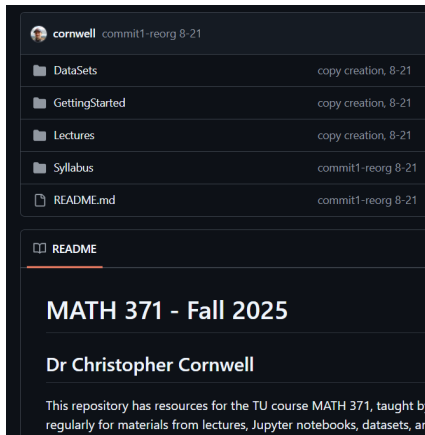
File/Folder	Commit
DataSets	copy creation, 8-21
GettingStarted	copy creation, 8-21
Lectures	copy creation, 8-21
Syllabus	commit1-reorg 8-21
README.md	commit1-reorg 8-21

Below the file list, the 'README' file is selected and highlighted with an orange underline. The README content includes the title 'MATH 371 - Fall 2025' and the author 'Dr Christopher Cornwell'. The text below the author name reads: 'This repository has resources for the TU course MATH 371, taught by regularly for materials from lectures, Jupyter notebooks, datasets, an'.

## Course on Github

Many class resources will be on the Github repository [here](#).

I will place links on Blackboard to some of the folders at that site, including class slides, Jupyter notebooks, and data sets. Check back, they will be updated regularly.





# Course on Blackboard

Screenshot of the course on Blackboard below. Homework will be linked to there, but also available on the class Github repo.

## INTRODUCTION TO MACHINE LEARNING (MATH371001)-1254

**Content** Calendar Announcements Discussions Gradebook Messages Analytics Groups Achievements

**Course Content** Course Content Help



### Course Information

Visible to students ▼

Information about the class: link to syllabus, course site, and timeline.



### Lecture slides

Visible to students ▼

Links to the slides for class topics.

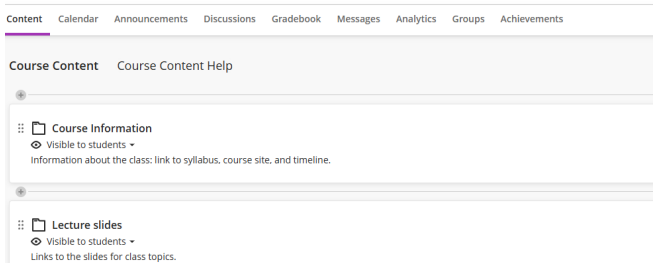
<sup>1</sup>My preferred set up. If instead you want everything in one file, please discuss with me.

# Course on Blackboard

Screenshot of the course on Blackboard below. Homework will be linked to there, but also available on the class Github repo.

Some HW questions require written responses, I will collect in class on the due date.<sup>1</sup> For HW requiring coding, a Jupyter notebook file, attached in an email to me.

## INTRODUCTION TO MACHINE LEARNING (MATH371001)-1254



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Some supplemental textbooks:

- *An Introduction to Statistical Learning: With Applications in Python*, by James, Witten, Hastie, Tibshirani, and Taylor. ([Link](#))
- *Understanding Machine Learning* by Shalev-Shwartz and Ben-David.
- *Mathematics for Machine Learning*, by Deisenroth, Faisal, and Ong. ([Link](#))

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May provide and assign a few reading excerpts from supplemental texts. Also, will use notes from lectures by Andrew Ng ([website](#)) and, potentially, Elizabeth Munch ([website](#)).

**Questions?**