Math 271: Linear algebra

Fall 2023

Instructor:	David Zureick-Brown	**Time:**	MWF 2:00 – 2:50
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Office:	502 Seeley Mudd		
Office hours:	TBA		

Textbook: "A Course in Linear Algebra," by David Damiano and John Little

Course website: https://dmzb.github.io/teaching/271Fall2023/

Prerequisites: Math 211

Learning objectives: Vector Spaces, Linear Transformations and Matrices, Determinants, Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors, Inner products, proofs.

Homework is **due Fridays at 1:55pm**, via Gradescope. The assignment should be submitted as a single file. Please be kind to our dear graders and take care to make the assignment legible.

See the document here

https://dmzb.github.io/teaching/271Fall2023/assignments-math-271.pdf

for a list of all assigned work and a weekly breakdown of the course content.

Grading: Your grade will consist of the following. Your lowest weekly assignment will be dropped.

Weekly Homework Assignments	20%
3 midterms and a comprehensive final exam	80% =
Best exam	25%+
Second best exam	20%+
Third best exam	20%+
Fourth best exam	15%

Grade scale: A lower bound on your final grade is given by the following table.

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-90	C+ = 77-80	D+ = 67-70	F = 0-63
A- = 90-93	B = 83-87	C = 73-77	D = 63-67	
	B- = 80-83	C- = 70-73		

Typical rubric: Assignments will typically be graded on the following rubric (out of 10 points).

10	Flawless
9	Basically correct, but not literally 100% correct
7	Mostly correct, but with at least one error
5	Numerous errors
2	Solution contains a fundamental misunderstanding
0	No part of the proof was correct

Assignment and exam dates:

Weekly Assignments	Generally due Fridays at 1:55pm via Gradescope.
Midterm 1	Friday, October 6
Midterm 2	Friday, November 3
Midterm 3	Friday, December 8
Final Exam	TBD by the college

Rewrites will be allowed (and encouraged) on weekly graded assignments, and students can recover up to half of the missed points. Rewrites are to be submitted through Gradescope. You may rewrite a problem multiple times, and you may resubmit a rewrite as late as you like (including right before the final exam).

When you submit a rewrite, please make it clear which problems you are rewriting.

Late submissions. Any assignment submitted after the due date will be treated as a "rewrite" (you can receive up to half credit for the assignment).

Honor Code: Remember that copying another student's work is a violation of the Honor Code and will be treated as such. Please review Amherst College's Honor Code, available here.

You are free to consult any sources (animate or inanimate) while doing your homework; working in groups is encouraged! On the other hand, you are expected to make an honest attempt to do every problem on your own before consulting other sources. An effective approach to learning and retaining knowledge is a back and forth process of trying problems on your own and asking for help or for a small hint.

A good rule of thumb to avoid plagiarism is the following – when doing the final write up of a problem, do not have any text books, web pages, or classmate's write up open in front of you. If you get stuck when writing up an assignment, go back and look again; just make sure that you organize the mathematics in your head before writing a proof rather than copying a solution from some source. **This is a generous homework policy. Please do not abuse it.**

Accessibility and accomodations. Amherst College complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. Please do not hesitate to contact me about accommodations. (Please also do so as soon as possible.) For more information, please go here.

Attendance policy. Attendance is always optional (except for exams). If you are sick, I would prefer that you stay home from class and get notes from a classmate.