

Syllabus, Math 1553 (Introduction to Linear Algebra), Spring 2020

Note: the syllabus and course schedule are subject to change. Any changes to the syllabus and/or course schedule after the semester begins will be relayed to the students in class and through e-mail.

Textbook

The primary textbook for this course is *Interactive Linear Algebra* by Dan Margalit and Joseph Rabinoff.

There is also an optional reference textbook: *Linear Algebra and its Applications*, 5th edition, by Lay-Lay-McDonald, which you can view online if you purchase access to MyMathLab. See the final page of the syllabus and [here](#) for more details.

Master website

The [master website](#) for Math 1553 contains much of the information found in this PDF and links to resources.

Course-level learning goals

By the end of this course, it is expected that students will be able to do the following.

- A) Solve systems of linear questions.
- B) Solve eigenvalue problems.
- C) Analyze mathematical statements and expressions (for example, to assess whether a particular statement is accurate, or to describe solutions of systems in terms of existence and uniqueness).
- D) Write logical progressions of precise mathematical statements to justify and communicate your reasoning.
- E) Apply linear algebra concepts to model, solve, and analyze real-world situations.

Students are expected, at a minimum, to be able to do all problems from lecture and homework (and similar problems) on quizzes and exams. For more, see the portion of the master website that discusses [how to succeed in this course](#).

Course information posted online, and Piazza

Your instructor will update the class web pages with class information and materials. You are responsible for obtaining any announcements or materials placed on your instructor's webpage and Canvas. We also have a Piazza forum for each class, to facilitate discussion. You can access it by clicking the Piazza tab at the left side of your course in the Canvas site. It should ask you to register for your class. Your poll grades will be uploaded to Canvas, and Canvas is keyed to your Georgia Tech login ID, so you need to use "(login ID)@gatech.edu" for your Piazza email when registering. If you use a different email address such as gmail, the system will give you a 0 on each poll.

Homework

Homework will be done online through WeBWorK, accessed through Canvas. Homework will be due weekly. Often, more than one assignment will be due in a given week. The warmup assignment for the first week of class on WeBWork is just for practice and will not be graded.

Homework will generally be due at **11:59 PM on Thursdays**.

Your **two lowest homework** scores will be dropped. *No late homework will be accepted — no exceptions*. Each assignment counts the same amount toward your grade.

Quizzes, Exams, and regrades

Starting the week of January 13, we will have a 10-minute quiz in most studios. Your **lowest quiz grade** will be dropped. No books, notes, calculators, cell phones, or other electronic devices are allowed during quizzes and exams.

We will have three exams, which will take place during studio on the following dates:

1. Friday, February 7
2. Friday, March 6
3. Friday, April 10

Quizzes and exams will be handed back during studio. Your instructor may have their own way of handling regrades, but in general, regrade requests for quizzes and exams must be made immediately, before the student leaves studio. If your instructor grades a quiz or exam using an online grading program, you must submit a request by the deadline they set, which might even be before your next studio. Please note that even if you only have one problem which you want regraded, your *entire* quiz or exam is subject to a regrade.

Cumulative Final exam: Tuesday, April 28, from 6:00 PM - 8:50 PM.

For the full final exam schedule, see [the registrar's schedule](#).

Only under extreme extenuating circumstances will you be able to take the final exam at a different time or date. Early travel plans (including already-purchased tickets) are **not** an acceptable reason for this.

Students with Disabilities and/or in need of Special Accommodations

Georgia Tech complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you are in need of classroom or testing accommodations, please make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services to discuss the appropriate procedures. More information is available on their [website](#). Please also make an appointment with your instructor to discuss your accommodation, if necessary.

The Honor Code and Academic Dishonesty

Do not cheat! Abide by the [honor code](#) at all times. See <http://honor.gatech.edu> and [here](#).

Any evidence of cheating or other violations of the Georgia Tech Honor Code will be submitted directly to the Office of Student Integrity. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using a calculator, books, or any form of notes on quizzes or tests.
2. Copying directly from any source, including friends, classmates, tutors, internet sources (including Wolfram Alpha), or a solutions manual.
3. Allowing another person to copy your work.
4. Taking a test or quiz in someone else's name, or having someone else take a test or quiz in your name.
5. Asking for a regrade of a paper that has been altered from its original form.

We catch many cheaters every year. Don't do it!

Missed work policy

You may only receive credit for missed quizzes or exams in the following circumstances.

- **University-approved absence:** Please give your instructor notice by January 15, or as soon as possible once your absence has been approved.
- **Religious holiday:** By the end of class on Wednesday, January 15, you must **notify your instructor and your TA** of any classes (including studio) you will miss due to religious holidays.
- **Illness:** Except under extenuating circumstances, you must **notify your TA *in advance*** and notify the Office of the Dean of Students if you will miss a quiz, so that they can confirm it with your instructor.
- In case of a **family emergency**, please have your **academic advisor or the Dean's office** contact your instructor.

Otherwise, missed quizzes and missed exams result in a 0.

If you will miss an **exam**, then you must **notify your instructor *in advance*** (rather than your TA) and provide any necessary documentation to the Dean's office so that they may contact your instructor with verification.

In the case of an excused absence for a quiz, you may take a makeup quiz the following week during your TA's office hours or at a time scheduled with your instructor. If you have an excused absence for an exam, then you may take a makeup exam on the Monday immediately following the exam. If this is not possible, then the weight for that exam will be shifted equally to your remaining exams (including the final exam).

Grade breakdown

The components of the class are weighted as follows:

- 5% Homework (two lowest scores dropped)
- 5% Class participation, as measured by responses to Piazza poll questions (lowest three scores dropped)
- 15% Quizzes (lowest score dropped)
- 15% Midterm 1
- 15% Midterm 2
- 15% Midterm 3
- 30% Final exam

If you score higher on your final exam than on one of the midterms, then your final exam will count for 37.5% of your grade and your lowest midterm will count for 7.5% of your grade. However, any student found guilty of academic dishonesty of any kind in Math 1553 is ineligible for this policy.

Grade assignments

After *all* grades are in and all overall percentage scores for students have been computed using the weights described above, grades are assigned. The standard cutoffs are as follows.

A: [90%, 100%] B: [80%, 90%) C: [70%, 80%) D: [60%, 70%) F: [0%, 60%)

So, to guarantee an A, get 90% or better overall. (90 means 90, not 89.9)

To guarantee at least a B grade, get 80% or better overall, etc.

These cutoffs *might* be adjusted, but only in the downward direction (to make letter grades higher). In the event of a curve, only your final overall percentage grade for the course will be curved. Individual quizzes and exams will not be curved as we go along.

Extra credit, calculators, and entered grades on Canvas

1. There is **no extra credit**, except possibly in the form of a bonus question on an exam (if your instructor decides to add one). There are also no quiz re-takes or exam re-takes.
2. You can use calculators to check your computations when doing homework. You are **NOT allowed to use a calculator** on quizzes or exams.
3. Once a quiz or exam has been graded, the grades will be entered on Canvas. When you receive the quiz or exam back, please check that the grade matches the grade recorded on Canvas. If it does not, you must contact your TA within two weeks of the assignment or quiz's date and present him or her with your graded assignment or quiz, so that they may correct the error.

Email policy

Check the syllabus first. Exam dates, policies, etc. are available on the syllabus.

No grade discussion by email. Any questions about grades (including the curve) should be asked during office hours or in an appointment scheduled outside of office hours.

Math in person, rather than by email. Communicating math through email is often difficult and confusing. Instead, let's talk before or after class, during office hours, or at a scheduled appointment outside of office hours. Piazza is also available for discussing mathematics online.

Additional resources and tutoring

The [Math Lab](#) offers tutoring in Clough Commons 280, and there is also free **1-to-1 tutoring**. If appointments are full when you are available, you may request additional tutoring. There is additional drop-in tutoring on the 2nd floor of the Clough Commons, as well as **PLUS sessions**. A comprehensive list of tutoring resources is available at <http://www.success.gatech.edu/tutoring-0>.

Waitlists, Registration, Permits, etc.

Instructors are forbidden from doing anything regarding class registration. They cannot issue permits, remove students from waitlists, etc. For guidelines on such matters, please consult <https://math.gatech.edu/permits-and-waitlists>.

Attendance

Piazza polls conducted in lecture will be used for your participation grade, so bring a computer or smartphone to class with you. Responding to these questions counts toward your final grade, although it doesn't matter if your answer was correct. **Your lowest three poll scores will be dropped.**

You are expected to come prepared and actively participate in every lecture and studio session. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for all missed materials, assignments, and any additional announcements or schedule changes given in class. Class disruptions of any kind will not be tolerated and may result in your removal from the classroom and loss of attendance/participation points for that day. Please show courtesy to your fellow classmates and instructor by adhering to the following class rules: unless otherwise directed, turning off all laptops, cellular phones, and all other electronic devices (unless being used for note-taking) during class, coming to class on time and staying for the entire class period, refraining from conversing with your fellow students, and putting away any reading materials unrelated to the course.

Georgia Tech Resources for Personal Support

The Office of the Dean of Students: 404-894-6367; Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor. You also may request assistance [here](#).

Counseling Center: 404-894-2575; Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor

Services include short-term individual counseling, group counseling, couples counseling, testing and assessment, referral services, and crisis intervention. Their website also includes links to state and national resources. Students in crisis may walk in during business hours (8am-5pm, Monday through Friday) or contact the counselor on call after hours at 404-894-2204.

Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources (STAR) Can assist with interview clothing, food, and housing needs.

Stamps Health Services: 404-894-1420; Primary care, pharmacy, women's health, psychiatry, immunization and allergy, health promotion, and nutrition

OMED: Educational Services

Women's Resource Center: 404-385-0230

LGBTQIA Resource Center: 404-385-2679

Veteran's Resource Center: 404-385-2067

Georgia Tech Police: 404-894-2500

Statement of Intent for Inclusivity

As members of the Georgia Tech community, we are committed to creating a learning environment in which all of our students feel safe and included. Because we are individuals with varying needs, we are reliant on your feedback to achieve this goal. To that end, we invite you to enter into dialogue with us about the things we can stop, start, and continue doing to make the classroom an environment in which every student feels valued and can engage actively in our learning community.

MyMathLab Course Information: Georgia Tech currently utilizes MyMathLab (MML) to give students joint electronic access to the Thomas *Calculus* text and the Lay *Linear Algebra* text.

MyMathLab Course ID: jankowski45035

Important notes on MML:

- If you already have an account on MyMathLab at Georgia Tech using this combined textbook within the past 18 months, then you do not need to purchase a new code. Login to your account on MyMathLab and follow [these instructions](#).
- If you already have a MyMathLab account that used either the Thomas or the Lay textbook in the past 18 months, but you were unable to add our course using the previous step, please send an email to Lyndsee.Hewston@Pearson.com and include the following information:
 1. Your First and Last Name
 2. The email address used to register for MML
 3. Your Login ID for MML
 4. Our course ID (listed above)

You should receive a reply within 36 business hours from the Pearson support team regarding your account status. In the meantime, you can access our course using the “temporary access” option when registering. Please do not pay for a new code until you receive a reply from Pearson.

- If you do not have a MyMathLab account using the Thomas or Lay textbooks at Georgia Tech, or if your account is over 18 months old, you will need to purchase a new code for our course.
- When signing up for MyMathLab, it will be immensely helpful if you will set your STUDENT ID to your USERID for the GT system (i.e., your Georgia Tech USERID, as in “cjankowski3” etc).

MyMathLab comes with an entire electronic version of the textbook; it is your choice if you would also like to own the textbook in print. You may purchase a MyMathLab code either from the bookstore or online while registering at <http://www.mymathlab.com>. PLEASE NOTE: GEORGIA TECH HAS A SPECIAL CODE PACKAGE THAT INCLUDES BOTH TEXTBOOKS. THIS CODE CAN ONLY BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE CAMPUS BOOKSTORES OR DIRECTLY FROM PEARSON. CODES PURCHASED BY OTHER VENDORS WILL NOT WORK!