

MTH 266 Linear Algebra Syllabus

Online Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Pablo Chalmeta
pchalmeta@nr.edu
www.nr.edu/chalmeta

Office hours: <https://www.nr.edu/chalmeta/schedule.html>
Office hours zoom: <https://vccs.zoom.us/j/84388417918>

Phone: 540-674-3600, ext. 4266 (or 4115)
Office: 48 Godbey Hall (Mall 115A)

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Textbook: MyLab Math with Pearson eText Instant Access for Linear Algebra & Its Applications 18 week(1737), 6th ed. by Lay-McDonald-Lay. ISBN: 9780137632039

The cost of MyLab Math with Pearson eText Instant Access is included with your tuition. Please see the details in "Access Pearson Materials" in Canvas, Course Information module.

Calculator: Almost any

Software: MyLabMath can ONLY be accessed through Canvas

GRADING/EVALUATION

A student's final grade is determined through a variety of assessments

Grading Criteria	
MyLab Math Homework	15%
MyLab Math Quizzes	10%
Three (3) Tests (Proctored)	55%
Final Exam (Proctored)	20%

Last date to complete test:	
Test 1	Feb. 24
Test 2	March 31
Test 3	May 5
Final Exam	May 8

Introductory Quiz: You must take the introductory quiz in Canvas by the end of the first week or you will be withdrawn for non-participation in the course.

Tests.

1. There will be three (3) paper and pencil tests.
2. **The tests must be taken in a proctored environment such as our testing centers**
3. You may use a calculator but you **MAY NOT** use any of the symbolic abilities your calculator may have. This includes but is not limited to graphing, row reduction and solving of equations of any type.
4. There will be no make-up tests. Any missed test will receive the score of "0". See final exam.
5. Tests may be taken early.
6. *The average on all tests will count as 55% of the course grade*

Final Exam. There will be one comprehensive final due by the last day of class. **The final exam must be taken in a proctored environment such as our testing centers.** *The final will count as 20% of the course grade.* The final exam will replace the lowest test grade if it is higher.

HOMEWORK

Giving your best effort on homework is the single best thing you can do to help you learn mathematics. As such, the homework is submitted using the MyLab Math software. There are due dates in the software to keep you on track. There is no penalty for working on the homework late. Please refer to this semester's calendar found in Canvas to keep on pace. The average of all homework assignments counts as 15% of the course grade. There are additional homework problems in the textbook that are not collected for a grade but you are still responsible for knowing how to complete them. Some are duplicated in the software but many are not.

QUIZZES

Any graded assignment that is not MyLab Math homework, a test, or the final exam is in this category. The average of all assignments in this category counts as 10% of the course grade. They include

- **Introductory Assignments:** Grades for these assignments are not dropped. The introductory quiz tests your knowledge of course policies and procedures. It may be taken anywhere without a proctor. The introductory email sets up email communication between us and confirms that you have enrolled in MyLab Math.
If you do not complete all of them in the first week of class, you will be withdrawn for non-attendance under the Instructor Initiated Withdrawal policy.
- **Paper/pencil Quizzes:** There are 11 quizzes with the lowest quiz grade dropped. These are taken on your own with no time limit. Your hand-written work must be scanned and submitted as a PDF file.

CALCULATOR:

A scientific calculator is recommended. If you own a calculator do not buy a new one. If you do not own a calculator don't spend a lot of money on one. I recommend the TI-30X IIS calculator.

EMAIL POLICY

If you send me an e-mail always use your NRCC issued email address. Be sure that your email client includes your name in the header. You should always include a descriptive subject line that includes the course number. Please remember to use complete sentences and follow the rules of grammar. The [Purdue OWL website \(click\)](#) has excellent information about creating a professional email. I communicate through email to your NRCC issued address. I WILL NOT be replying to email that does not conform to these requirements. I do reply to email within 24 hours during the week. Weekends may be longer.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

The test problems are similar to those used as examples in lectures, found in MyLab Math, practiced in classwork, and given in the test topics documents. The number and difficulty of problems is similar to that of tests given to face-to-face classes.

The best way to prepare for tests in this course is to

- Watch the videos that are in Canvas, pausing to take notes and work examples.
- Work through the Classwork in Canvas and do the homework assignments in MyLab Math using the resources there for help as needed.
- Use Similar Question with the homework exercises until notes or outside help are no longer needed to solve the problems successfully.
- Plan to spend an average of 1 – 1.5 hours a day in a semester-long class, 2.5 – 3.5 hours a day in a 7-week class, and 1.5 – 2.5 hours a day in a 10-week class including weekends.

The quizzes are taken on your own.

- Label your paper with the quiz name, your name, and the date.
- At the top of your paper, write the pledge, "I promise that I took this quiz alone and that this work is my own," and sign it.
- Number the problems if there is more than one.
- Write neatly.
- Clearly identify your final answer.
- After completing a quiz, write the pledge and sign it again at the end of your work.
- Create a PDF copy of your hand-written work with each page of work being a page in the PDF.
- Submit the PDF of your completed quiz in Canvas.

The tests and the final are taken in an NRCC testing center or with an approved proctor.

- Arrive at least 2 hours before the testing center closes and bring a photo ID with your name & a recent photo on it.
- Bring your own writing utensil and eraser. The testing center will provide a TI-30xIIs calculator. You may not use a cell phone calculator or a computer calculator.
- You may not bring any notes or other study aids.
- The tests are on paper. Write everything you wish to be graded on the test itself.
- You should not need extra paper but the testing center staff or proctor will provide paper if you need it. They will collect your test work when you finish the test. Be sure to write your name on each sheet of paper you use. Be sure to write neatly and number each problem. Write everything you wish to be graded on the test itself.

Many problems on the quizzes, tests, and final exam require that you show your work. As I grade those problems I make the following adjustments to your score.

- Incorrect answers with no work, major errors in the work, work missing steps that cannot be reasonably done in my head, or work using methods inconsistent with the scope of this course receive little or no credit.
- Incorrect answers with complete work showing minor error(s) receive partial credit.
- Correct answers with full support of work receive full credit.
- Correct answers with partial support of work may only receive partial credit.
- Correct answers with no work will receive partial or no credit.

Note: Some problems do not have or need work to be shown. These include multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions.