

LINEAR ALGEBRA
MATH 3013 – 801
Fall 2015

Instructor: Emily Quinn
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00PM to 7:00PM, or by appointment
e-mail: emily.quinn@okstate.edu (the BEST way to reach me)
Online Classroom (D2L) Site: <https://oc.okstate.edu> (then log in and find our course)
Textbook: Linear Algebra: A Modern Introduction (4th Ed.) by David Poole

Syllabus Attachment: Please read the OSU syllabus attachment for the Fall 2015 semester on the web at <https://academicaffairs.okstate.edu/sites/default/files/Fall%202015%20Syllabus.pdf>. The syllabus attachment has a lot of important information, including instructions about disability accommodations. Please contact me privately during the first week of the course if you need accommodations as the result of a disability.

Course Description.

From OSU catalog:

Prerequisite(s): MATH 2153. Algebra and geometry of finite-dimensional linear spaces, linear transformations, algebra of matrices, eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

From the instructor:

This is a three credit-hour mathematics class that goes quickly and is more abstract than calculus. You should expect to average six hours of work outside of class per week, more if you are struggling. It is very difficult to succeed at this level of mathematics without consistently spending that much time reading the textbook, doing practice problems, and getting help.

Course Evaluation. Course grades will be determined according to the following distribution.

Homework and Quizzes	200 points
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points

TOTAL	700 points

Earning a score of 90% guarantees an A for the semester, 80% a B, 70% a C, and 60% a D. I reserve the right to use discretion if you are on the borderline between two grades, taking into consideration performance on the final exam, improvement or decline during the semester, attendance, and my subjective judgment of your effort. I'll give approximate grade updates after exams.

LINEAR ALGEBRA
MATH 3013 – 801
Fall 2015

Exams. There will be three (3) 75-minute in-class examinations with a maximum possible score of 100 points each and a 200-point comprehensive Final Examination during Final's Week. The day and time of the **Final Examination** will be announced once it is scheduled. The time for the Final is not negotiable (except when the OSU Final Exam Overload Policy applies).

The dates for the exams are as follows and most likely will not change. Put them on your calendar now and plan ahead.

- Exam 1: September 10
- Exam 2: October 8
- Exam 3: November 5

Attendance. Even though I believe that your active participation in this class is important to your success in it, there is no course attendance requirement. You will have an opportunity to earn course credit, however, through regular active participation in the class meetings that can contribute to improving your final course grade.

Here's how it works. You will be assigned an Attendance/Participation Score at the end of the semester. Attendance will be recorded during each class session. Your Attendance/Participation Score is based on 50 points maximum and will be determined by your total days absent from class. You must be fully participating in class to be considered present and determining "full participation" will be left to the discretion of the instructor. Here are some helpful things to remember about the attendance/participation score.

1. You must be present for the **entire** class session in order to be counted as present.
2. Because there is no class attendance requirement, **there are no "excused" absences for any reason**, including university-sponsored activities and illness.
3. The instructor has complete discretion in awarding attendance points. If you are sleeping during class, or are otherwise not participating in class (including texting, reading a paper, working on a computer, etc.), **you may be counted as absent**.
4. The attendance score/participation score is optional and is meant to reward students for good attendance. A low class attendance score (due to excessive absences) will not lower your overall grade.
5. You will be given 50 attendance/participation points at the beginning of the semester. You will receive one "free" absence, with no points deducted. For each absence after that, you will have 3 points deducted from your attendance/participation score.
6. If you have no absences at all during the semester (present at every class meeting), 3 additional bonus points will be added to your attendance/participation score (in this instance, the total is 53).

Replacing an Exam. At the end of the semester, you may replace the lowest of the first three exam scores or one of the two final exam scores (if it is your lowest score), provided it improves your letter grade, with points awarded to you as follows.

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{One-half of your} \\ \text{lowest exam score} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \text{Your Attendance/} \\ \text{Participation Score} \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} \text{The grade that replaces} \\ \text{your lowest exam score} \end{array}$$

Example: Sam's lowest exam score is 59 and he has 2 absences. Sam's points are calculated as follows:

Half of Sam's lowest test score	30 (half of 59 is 29.5, rounded up to 30)
Attendance/participation score	+47 (first absence is "free", so $50 - 3 \cdot 1 = 47$)
Replacement Grade	77

Sam's lowest exam score of 59 will be replaced with a score of 77.

LINEAR ALGEBRA
MATH 3013 – 801
Fall 2015

Quizzes and Homework. I will assign weekly homework. You should do all of the problems, but not all of the problems will be graded. On Tuesdays of the weeks that do not follow an exam, you will take a quiz, turn in homework, or do both. On many of the quizzes, I will allow you to use your homework, and the problem(s) will be similar or identical to the homework problems you were assigned. I will not always announce in advance what kind of assessment we will have for the week. Each assessment of this type will be worth an equal number of points, and I will drop your lowest score.

Quizzes and written homework are designed both to help you master the material and also to help you learn to communicate mathematical ideas in a clear, rigorous manner. **You should expect to have to work hard to get some of the problems; you don't learn anything by doing problems identical to what I do in class.** Some homework questions will be very conceptual and require deep understanding of the material. Often, you may need to practice problems in addition to the assigned ones – *it is your responsibility to make sure you have done enough to be comfortable with the material.*

Conflicts. I will offer reasonable accommodation in the event that you miss a major assessment activity for a valid and documented reason, assuming documentation is provided **in advance unless absolutely impossible.** For a quiz or exam, you need to tell me as soon as you know you have a conflict – you will be ineligible for a make-up if you do not. I require proof of the reason for your absence (e.g., a doctor's note, proof of involvement in an OSU-sponsored activity, etc.), and you should not assume you will be eligible for a make-up exam or quiz unless I have explicitly approved your request. If you won't be in class when homework is due, turn it in early, give it to someone else to turn in, or scan and email to me prior to the deadline – late homework will be accepted up to one week late, and all late homework will be worth at most 75% of the value of the homework.

Calculators. I plan to allow calculators on quizzes and exams, but will always require work to be shown. You may use calculators on homework, but don't use them as a substitute for conceptual understanding.

Drop and Withdrawal Policy. "Dropping" means you are withdrawing from a specific course but you are still enrolled in at least one other OSU course; the last day to drop a course with an automatic grade of "W" is November 6, 2015. "Withdrawal" means you are dropping *all courses* and you are no longer enrolled for the current semester; the last day to withdraw completely from OSU classes with an assigned grade of "W" or "F" is November 20, 2015. Additional information about "dropping" and "withdrawing" is available on the Fall 2015 Syllabus Attachment. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW AND COMPLY WITH ALL DEADLINES.**

Incomplete Grade. The grade of "I" is given to students who satisfactorily completed the majority of the course work and whose work averages "D" or better, but who have been **unavoidably** prevented from completing the remaining work of the course.

Academic Honestly. The university has explicit rules governing academic dishonesty and academic misconduct. The policies are detailed in the document "Student Rights and Responsibilities Governing Student Behavior." It is available from the Deans' Offices, the Provost's Office, and various other places around campus. The university policies will be followed in this class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment of a grade of 0 on the examination or homework assignment. Working with another person or in study groups on problems can be helpful in learning the material. I encourage you to work together in your groups. However, **all written work submitted must be your own.** *Copying someone else's problem solution or showing your written solution to someone else is prohibited.* In order to be successful in learning the material and doing well on the examinations you must think very hard about the problems themselves **before** discussing them with anyone else.

**LINEAR ALGEBRA
MATH 3013 – 801
Fall 2015**

What if I need help? You have many resources for this course. Often students find it helpful to talk to each other and work through homework or practice problems together. You're encouraged to post questions and answers in the Discussion section of the Online Classroom. For **quick** questions, you can send me an e-mail, and you're always welcome to come by and see me in person during my office hours. **Above all, see me early if you have questions.**

Special Accommodations for Students. If any member of this class feels that he/she has a disability and needs special accommodations of any nature whatsoever, he/she should notify the instructor and request verification of eligibility for accommodations from the Office of Student Disability Services, North Hall 204. Please advise the instructor of such disability as soon as possible, and contact Student Disability Services, to insure timely implementation of appropriate accommodations. Faculty members have an obligation to respond when they receive official notice of a disability but are under no obligation to provide retroactive accommodations.

Final note. I am more than willing to help you in any way that I can, and I **genuinely** care about your success and general welfare. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions, or voice any concerns! Good luck!

Any changes in this syllabus will be communicated to you in class by the instructor.

First Assignment

Please complete this assignment by Friday, August 21.

1. Send me an e-mail at emily.quinn@okstate.edu. Write a **paragraph** (not a list) including your name, year in school, major, hometown, last math class (and instructor if taken at OSU), and anything interesting about yourself you would like for me to know, especially your interests in and out of school. Please attach a picture of yourself as well. These e-mails let me know something about my students and help me get to know everyone. If you don't get a reply from me within a day, I probably didn't get the email – talk to me about it.
2. Read the Syllabus Attachment at <https://academicaffairs.okstate.edu/sites/default/files/Fall%202015%20Syllabus.pdf>.