

Math 330, Linear Algebra Spring 2009 - Ed Keppelmann

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Cell:	775-722-0658	Textbook:	Linear Algebra 3rd Edition
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ALSO REQUIRED:	Math Lab Account	log on to	www.coursecompass.com
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Greetings Students! I am delighted to be able to work with you this semester to learn linear algebra. If one looks at all the places powerful mathematics is used in today's technological world a good case can be made that linear algebra plays a bigger role than calculus. I hope you will learn a lot this semester. I am ready to help you whenever concerns arise. While I will really try to keep up with all my email, when you don't get a response just call me day or night, weekdays, holidays or weekends at 775-722-0658. In addition to being a faculty member in the math department, I am also the K-12 outreach coordinator to Nevada for the college of science. This means that I spend time working with many teachers in the state and so I often must adjust my office hours. Every Sunday, I will post my hours for the next week at the indicated site. In the categories below I will explain each factor in the course grading scheme.

- **4 EXAMS WITH PARTIAL RETAKES - 15% each**

- Exam 1 Chapter 1-Feb 11th (with re-take Feb 23rd)
- Exam 2 Chapter 2-March 2nd (with re-take March 11th)
- Exam 3 Chapters 3 & 4 -March 30th (with re-take April 10th)
- Exam 4 Chapter 5 - April 17th (with re-take April 29th)

Approximately one-week before each exam an outline will be available that will describe the format for the exam. The exam will be broken into categories with each category ranging in value from 5% to 20% of the exam. These categories will be explained in the outline along with some tips for preparing for them. About a week after the exam the graded tests will be returned to you. You will then be given an opportunity to sign up for one exam question that you would like to re-take. On the day of the re-take you will then be given a similar (but definitely different) question in the same category which you signed up for. You will then be awarded (for that question only), the larger of your original score or what you achieved on the re-take. For example, if on the actual test, you scored a 4 and then when re-taking this question you scored a 14, then your original exam would increase by $14 - 4 = 10$ points. Therefore, when you choose a re-take category it must be a question for which you did relatively poorly but one where you can become totally proficient. **retakes are OPTIONAL and they can never hurt your grade.**

- **Homework - drop lowest 4 - 10%** This is denoted as homework-due in the syllabus and generally involves 3 problems from each section we cover. **Note that this is only a portion of the assigned problems!** After a section is first presented, the next class meeting is usually an opportunity to ask questions before the homework is due in the meeting after that. Therefore, if you have questions there will be plenty of opportunity to ask them.
- **Daily Quizzes - drop lowest 4 - 5%** Starting Friday January 23rd we will have daily quizzes. The best preparation for these quizzes are the indicated practice problems which have answers in the back of the book and detailed solutions with your on line account. These quizzes will take about 5 minutes at the end of class.

- **Web Exams - drop lowest 2 - 5%** These quizzes will occur online according to the schedule indicated. For each chapter we cover there are two such quizzes. One will be taken before the exam and one right after the exam to reinforce concepts for a third time, and to prepare for the re-takes and comprehensive aspects of the final. **Please note that these exams were written by the author and they are comprehensive over each chapter we cover. Since we do not formally cover each section in any chapter, some of these questions will require extra help. They are assigned in order to expand your horizons and you are welcome to ask about them by email or in class.** In order that everyone gets the same information I will not in general discuss these during office hours.
- **Final Exam - 20% on Friday May 8 from 9:45-11:45AM** This exam will be 50% comprehensive covering the entire course with some emphasis on topics that have been weak for the class during the previous exams. The exact coverage will be explained in the same manner as for the hour exams as explained above. **Although there will be no-retakes for the final you will be allowed to replace your lowest score on an hour exam by your score on the final if the score on your final is higher. This means the final will count in at least 20% of your grade and possibly as much as 35% of your grade.** Because of this comprehensive nature it is important to keep all your exams and study their solutions carefully and re-learn any material you do not understand. There may also be some material on the final that was not specifically tested during the one-hour exams but would have been part of the online or practice homework. The remaining 50% will cover chapter 6 which we will study at the end of the semester.

My Math Lab

Your My math lab account through course compass will offer you several benefits. These include complete electronic access to the book (which is far cheaper than a physical copy if you decide to go only that route.) If you do purchase the book and it does not have an access code, let me know and I will help you. **You should not have to pay for the hard cover book and on-line access.** The web site will be a central place for us to communicate where you can see your grade and study the material in ways that go beyond the hard cover book. **Online access is required for this section of math 330.**

Makeups!

With the exception of school sponsored activities where I have a signed letter from the faculty or staff member in charge on the appropriate letterhead in a timely manner before the activity, there are no make-ups for any reason. **This is why you are allowed to drop quizzes, clicker days, and you can replace an hour exam with a higher score on the final. Therefore don't squander these opportunities for non-essential reasons!**

Grade determination

After each exam and at the end of the semester for the clicker, practicum quizzes, online homework, and final exam, a curve will be provided for each of the grading activities. Such a curve will indicate what score is allowed for the bottom A,B,C,D and F categories. These will then be compiled with the indicated weights to provide cutoffs for final grade calculation. Plus minus grades then result from anyone who is within 2% of a cutoff. Being just below a cutoff earns you the plus grade for the lower letter and just above the cutoff a minus with the higher letter. For example, if the final cutoff for an A turned out to be 88%, then overall scores of 92%,90%,87.9%, and 85.8% would earn grades of A, A⁻, B⁺, and B respectively.