

Course Policies

Prof. Shahed Sharif

Textbook. We will be using Hoffman and Kunze's *Linear Algebra*, 2nd Ed. We will be roughly covering chapters 1–7.



Course description. Vector spaces; dual spaces; linear transformations; bilinear forms and their matrix representations; Jordan and other canonical forms; finite-dimensional spectral theory; and connections to other branches of mathematics.

Course objectives. The goal is to obtain a higher understanding of essentially everything in an undergraduate linear algebra course. We will also cover some fundamental topics often omitted in such courses, notably duals of vector spaces and the theory of canonical forms. We will understand how the theory of canonical forms via the theory of polynomial rings, and learn how to compute them.

Course requirements. The grading scheme is as follows:

10%	for homework
50%	for 2 exams
40%	for final

Homework is announced every Friday and is due in class the following Friday. If you missed the announcement, check my webpage or email me.

Homework should be scanned and uploaded to Gradescope. When you upload your homework, make sure to assign each problem to one or more pages. You must show all work to receive full credit. *You will be graded on your writing!* Correct and clear grammar is essential to a correct proof. Of course, your reasoning must also be completely clear for full credit. Rewriting homework before handing it in is highly advisable. You may type your problem sets, but if you do, please use $\text{\LaTeX}$. Homework fulfills this course's writing requirement.

The **exams** are tentatively scheduled for 9/24 and 10/27.

The **final** is scheduled for Thursday, 12/17, 1:45–3:45 PM. If it would help, the final exam replaces your lowest semester exam score.

Late assignment policy. Late homework is not accepted. There are no exceptions! Instead, the lowest two homework scores are dropped.

Make-up exams are not given; see the exam policy above.

Office hours. My office hours are **Tuesday 4–5 PM and Thursday 11–12 AM** starting the second week of class. You can also email me any questions that you have. Make sure you include as much relevant detail as possible, and be aware that I may not have the textbook with me when I read your email.

Ethics. You are encouraged to work with others on graded assignments, but the final product should be your own work. In particular, you may not read your classmates' finished assignments until your own is completed! The same goes for other sources—online, back of the book, or other sources. Avoid looking at these sources, or if you do, take no notes on them. Failure to follow these guidelines is considered plagiarism, and all involved parties will *at a minimum* earn a zero on the relevant assignment and have their actions reported to the Dean of Student Affairs.

You are welcome to use AI tools on your homework, but remember that the purpose of homework is to understand the material. Don't short-change yourself by excessive reliance on AI. Note that AI use is not allowed on exams.

ADA policy. Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations must be approved for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) in Craven Hall 4300 (ph: (760) 750-4905; TTY: (760) 750-4909). Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with me during my office hours in order to ensure confidentiality.