

**COURSE INFORMATION: Fall 2024**  
**MATH 332 Elementary Linear Algebra**

**Time and Place:** 3:15-4:30pm, Monday & Wednesday, at RE 258.

**Instructor:** Hemanshu Kaul, [kaul@iit.edu](mailto:kaul@iit.edu).

**Office:** 125C, Rettaliata Engg Center.

**Online Discussion:** [Math 332 Discussion Forums at Canvas](#).

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday at 12:30-1:30pm. And by appointment in-person or through Zoom (send email to setup appointment).

Questions through Canvas Discussion Forums listed above are strongly encouraged.

**TA Office Hours:** Claude Hall. Monday and Wednesday 10-11am at RE 129 and at [Math Tutoring Center](#).

**ARC Tutoring Service:** Visit the [Academic Resource Center](#).

**Course Communication:** [Course Webpage](#)

Check the course webpage regularly for homework assignments, announcements, and a lecture log (useful when you miss a class and when reviewing for an exam). I often send emails with comments regarding HW problems, Exams, etc. Make sure your IIT email account is active and working.

**Prerequisites:** Math 251 Multivariable Calculus. In particular, some awareness of algebraic and geometric properties of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

**Textbook:** H. Anton and A. Kaul, Elementary Linear Algebra, 12th ed., John Wiley and Sons.

**Course Description:** This course has a two-fold aim (both equally important):

- Develop proficiency in concepts, theory, and some applications of elementary linear algebra - such as System of linear equations; Matrix algebra, inverses, determinants, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, diagonalization; Vector spaces, basis, dimension, rank and nullity; Inner product spaces, orthonormal bases; etc., and
- Transition students into abstract mathematics through development of good habits of understanding, communicating, and writing proof-based mathematics.

Also see the separate document ‘[My Aim for this Course](#)’.

An official description of the lecture topics and the course objectives is available at <http://www.iit.edu/applied-math/student-resources/course-syllabi>

**Grade Break-down:** Homework and class participation worth 15%; Three 1-hour exams worth 15% each; Final exam worth 40%. The grading scale will be no more strict than A:90-100, B:80-89, C:70-79, D:60-69.

**Class Attendance and Participation:** The multitude of concepts introduced and developed in each class, as well as the importance of proofs in this course makes it critical (and a requirement) that you attend the in-class lectures, and participate in the class discussions. You are also expected to read the text, including reviewing the proofs done in class and doing the examples not covered in class, and working on the ‘Reading HW’ beyond what we discuss in class.

*Multiple absences from the lectures without permission from instructor will result in **deductions from your ‘HW and Participation’ score at the discretion of the instructor.***

**Examinations:** The exam dates and their precise topics will be announced on the course webpage. The final exam will be on all the topics covered during the semester. Make-up exams will be given only in case of a documented emergency.

**Homework Assignment:** Homework problems will be assigned once a week (typically on Thursday morning) which will be due one week later.

It is your responsibility to check the course webpage for assignments and their due dates. Homework needs to be submitted through the appropriate webpage on *Canvas Assignment*. You will upload a PDF file of your submission - either typed solutions (use LaTeX), or a scanned copy of your handwritten solutions.

HW solutions must be written following the rules described in the section below.

**HW Discussion and Solution Rules:** You are allowed to discuss homework problems **only with your classmates, course TA, and me**. However, the solutions should be written by you alone and, if you discussed HW problems with a classmate or TA, you have to **write their name at the top of the HW submission as a collaborator**. Any incident of plagiarism/ cheating (from a person or from any online resource) will be strictly dealt with according to University rules.

Homework Solutions must be written clearly, legibly, and concisely, and will be graded for both mathematical correctness and presentation. Points will be deducted for sloppiness, illegible handwriting, incoherent or insufficient explanation, or for lack of supporting rationale. It is your responsibility to convince the grader of the correctness of your argument in a systematic manner. Solutions can only be graded on basis of what is written in your submission and not based on your unwritten intention.

**‘Why and How’ of Homework:** Homework serves as an opportunity for students to practice communicating written mathematics with clarity of thought and language. In a course like this, learning good communication skills in mathematics is very important. As significant is the opportunity that a homework provides you to test your understanding of the material covered in class that week. Mathematics cannot be learned by listening or just reading a book - you have to **do it**. Considering the varying pace of learning of students in class and the lack of class time to explore every detail of every concept/Theorem, working through problems in the HW is an easy way for you to make sure that you are keeping up with the class. This is why homework is given a lot of importance in this course - dedicate enough time to it every week.

Up till chapter 3, most of the exercises will be fairly straightforward computational exercises. Chapter 4 onwards, every homework will also contain one or two slightly more challenging problems. Don't be disheartened if some problems take a while to solve. Such problems help develop your mathematical creativity. Discuss such problems with your classmates, and/ or ask me for help, but only after you have given them sufficient thought. Please remember that **homework is NOT meant to be an examination**, it is meant to assist in your learning and development. If you need help with it, don't hesitate to ask.

The following is important for the many non-computational exercises you will encounter in this course. To improve your mathematical writing quickly, start by writing draft solutions to the homework early. A day or two later after you have had time to forget what you wrote, read it. If it doesn't make sense or convince you, rewrite it. **Writing a solution** requires saying what you mean and meaning what you say. Be intellectually honest. Intellectual dishonesty includes: 1) stating a "reason" without understanding its relevance. 2) Claiming a conclusion when you know you haven't proved it. 3) Giving an example and claiming you have proved the statement for all instances. **Include enough detail in your solutions so that your explanation is convincing to someone who hasn't thought about the problem before.** The proofs/ arguments should be presented so that your classmates could read them and follow the logic (step-by-step).

**Ask for Help:** You are encouraged to ask questions during the *lectures*, through the *Online Discussion Forums on Canvas*, during *my Office Hours*, during the *TA office hours*, at *ARC*, or through *Email to me*. If you are having trouble solving a homework problem, I will be glad to direct you in the right direction. The same goes for any reading in the book, or any concept you have difficulty understanding.

**Don't hesitate to ask for help! I cannot help you if you don't take the initiative.**

### **Accommodations through the Center for Disability Resources:**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must obtain a letter of accommodation from the Center for Disability Resources and email me to make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible. See the [CDR website](#) for more details.

### **Illinois Tech's Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Information:**

Sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination by any member of the Illinois Tech community is prohibited. This includes harassment among students, staff, or faculty. Sexual harassment by a faculty member or teaching assistant of a student over whom they have authority or by a supervisor of a member of the faculty or staff is particularly serious. Such conduct may easily create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Illinois Tech encourages anyone experiencing sexual harassment or sexual misconduct to speak with the Title IX Office for information on the resolution process and support options.

You can file a complaint [electronically](#), which may be completed anonymously. You may also file a complaint in-person by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, Virginia Foster at 312.567.5725/[foster@iit.edu](mailto:foster@iit.edu). See [further information here](#).

If you are not ready to file a formal complaint but wish to learn about your rights and options, you may contact Illinois Tech's Confidential Advisor service at 773.907.1062. You can also contact a licensed practitioner in Illinois Tech's Student Health and Wellness Center at 312.567.7550

For a comprehensive list of resources regarding counseling services, medical assistance, legal assistance and visa and immigration services, you can visit [the Title IX Office's website](#).