

AMAT 220: LINEAR ALGEBRA

SYLLABUS - FALL 2026

Instructor: Prof. Matt Zaremsky

Course meets: MW 11:40am-1:00pm in Social Science 256

Course Website: <https://zaremsky.github.io/teaching.html>

Email: mzaremsky at albany dot edu

Office hours: Friday 10am-1pm, in my office (Hudson 113)

1. TEXTBOOK

None specifically required. I'll be working out of Lay, McDonald, and Lay, *Linear Algebra and Its Applications*, 6th edition, Pearson, 2021. You don't have to buy the book, but it could be useful for following along and for finding extra problems to practice.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

"Linear equations, matrices, determinants, finite dimensional vector spaces, linear transformations, Euclidean spaces."

3. PREREQUISITES

AMAT 113 or equivalent (Calculus II).

4. HOMEWORK AND EXAMS

Unfortunately, AI has made homework in classes like linear algebra kind of pointless from a grading standpoint, since now it's too easy for someone to get 100% without understanding anything. But of course it's still important to have weekly homeworks to stay on top of the material and make sure you understand it. So, rather than make everyone pay to register for an online homework platform, I'll write weekly homework problem sets, due in class every Wednesday (any deviations from this will be announced ahead of time). No homework is due the first week. The lowest homework will be dropped. There will be three midterm exams, in-class and handwritten. (Note that this means 60% of your grade is determined by in-class, handwritten exams, so blindly using AI to do well on the homework is a bad long-term strategy.) No final exam.

5. GRADING POLICY

Homework: 40%, Each Midterm: 20%.

6. MAKE-UP POLICY

There will be no late homework accepted for any reason (it will be posted so far in advance that this will not be an issue, and I'll drop the lowest one). Once the exam dates are posted, if you know in advance you will need a make-up exam (and you have a legitimate reason: see [here]) let me know as soon as possible and we'll work something out.

7. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

See [here] for information about academic integrity. I should draw your attention to the part that says, "student claims of ignorance, unintentional error, or personal or academic pressures cannot be excuses for violation of academic integrity."