

Course Syllabus: Vector Spaces  
MATH 3753 Section 101 Fall 2025  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50am

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Michelle Knox Office: BO 122A  
Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10-10:50am and Tuesday/Thursday 2-2:50pm  
other times by appointment  
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Course Description

A mathematically rigorous approach to Abstract Vector Spaces and Linear Transformations.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

We will be using notes created by Dr. Knox for this course. You do not need to purchase a textbook.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Any student who is late or who leaves early may be counted as absent. This will result in a zero on any quiz or other assignment for the day. ***Any student who misses seven or more classes may be dropped from the course.***

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to

1. get notes from another student for the day(s) you missed, and
2. see Dr. Knox before the next class for any handouts from the day(s) you missed.

Grading

We will be using a 90-80-70-60 grading scale. Dr. Knox intends to give four exams and a final exam, each worth 20% of your grade. However, your final grade may also be affected by your completion rate for homework throughout the semester.

Graded homework will be given a "complete" or "incomplete" as a score. A "complete" on a homework problem/assignment does not mean you must earn a perfect score on that problem. (In fact, you will not receive a numerical score at all.) A "complete" means you have submitted a solution that Dr. Knox has accepted as being more or less correct (in her opinion), though there will still likely be feedback from Dr. Knox on improvements. Please note that:

- (1) if you do not earn a complete on at least 50% of all collected homework, you will lose 5% from your final grade at the end of the semester.
- (2) assignments are generally due at the start of the next class, unless otherwise specified by Dr. Knox (including problems that are redone).
- (3) late homework assignments will not be accepted and will be automatically counted as incomplete.
- (4) if you are given the opportunity to redo a problem, **you must submit the new solution along with the first submission**, and you are only allowed one redo for a problem.

Unless told otherwise, you are allowed (and even encouraged) to work with your classmates on homework exercises. However, you must write your own final proofs. Dr. Knox expects all homework submissions to be your own work. Homework submissions must also follow Dr. Knox's submission guidelines in order to be accepted.

Do not

1. write up your final proof with anyone else, or
2. allow another person to read your final proof.

If you want to help someone understand how to work a problem, talk to them and give them advice or pointers, but never show them your completed work.

***Note that you are not allowed to consult other textbooks, the internet, or any apps for any of your homework exercises.*** You may consult other MSU faculty members, and you may work with other students in our class, but you are not allowed to discuss homework with anyone else. Violation of Dr. Knox's homework policy will be considered an act of academic dishonesty. ***See the Academic Dishonesty section of this syllabus for possible academic sanctions when academic dishonesty occurs.***

### Exams

The dates of the exams are

- Exam One is on Wednesday, September 24, 2025
- Exam Two is on Wednesday, October 15, 2025
- Exam Three is on Wednesday, November 5, 2025
- Exam Four is on Wednesday, December 3, 2025
- The Final Exam is on Monday, December 8, 2025, 10:30-12:30 pm.

***If an exam is missed, every effort must be made by the student to notify Dr. Knox in a reasonable amount of time before the exam.*** Whether you call Dr. Knox or email her when you miss an exam, be sure to leave your name and phone number in your message so that she can call you back.

### Academic Misconduct Policy

All work that you do that contributes to your course grade must be your own work. Any evidence that you submitted work that is not your own is considered an act of academic dishonesty. An act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the university and will result in one of the following academic sanctions:

- Receiving an incomplete on a homework assignment.
- Receiving a 0 on an exam.
- Receiving a 10% deduction from your final grade.
- Receiving an F in MATH 3753.
- Receiving an F in MATH 3753 that will remain permanently on your transcript and within your MSU GPA.

The university's academic dishonesty policy can be found at [Student Handbook](#)

### Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

### Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices Policy

Please turn cell phones off or place on silent prior to the beginning of class. All cell phones must be placed face down on the desk/table in front of you during class. Cell phones/earbuds/smart watches/etc. are not to be used during class. Violation of this policy during class may result in the student being counted absent, and any graded work turned in on that day will receive a grade of zero. Continued violation of the electronics policy may result in a referral to the Dean of Students and/or the student may be withdrawn from the class by the instructor. Use of a cell phone/earbuds/smart watch/other unauthorized electronic device during a test or quiz will result in one of the penalties listed under the academic misconduct policy given in this syllabus.

### Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

## College Policies and Student Handbook

### *Student Handbook*

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

The following link provides information about some of the resources that can be found on campus:

[Science and Math Resources](#)

### *Campus Carry Rules/Policies*

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### *Campus Carry*

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### *Active Shooter*

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)