Math 33A Discussion Syllabus

Cecelia Higgins

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TA Contact Information

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An explanation of discussion section

Welcome to our discussion section!

During our weekly discussions for Math 33A, you will work together with your classmates on linear algebra problems. The Learning Assistant and I will circulate the room to check in with you. At any time, if you have any questions to ask, please ask them! There is no such thing as a “stupid” question.

The problems you solve during discussion will be relevant to the course content and homework and will also help you to prepare for the quizzes. By working together with your peers on these problems, you will have opportunities to ask questions of and explain concepts to folks who are learning the same material as you at the same time. I understand that some students may have had frustrating, unsatisfying, or intimidating experiences with group work in the past; however, Dr. Morris-Wright, the Learning Assistant, and I will do our best to ensure that group work in this course is engaging and purposeful. If at any point you find yourself experiencing challenges related to the group work aspect of our class, please reach out to me; Dr. Morris-Wright and I will devise a solution.

By maintaining at least a 75 percent average on the group work assignments (please see Dr. Morris-Wright’s syllabus for more details), you will earn 10 points toward your final grade in the course.
A few words on COVID-19

The transition back to in-person instruction brings both exciting opportunities and new challenges. In order to protect yourself and your fellow classmates, please make sure to be aware of and to adhere to the following measures (which paraphrase the official Center for Education Innovation and Learning in the Sciences (CEILS) recommendations and the [official university protocols](#)):

- Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth throughout the discussion. Please see [here](#) for a list of acceptable masks. If you need to have a brief snack or drink during discussion, please step outside the classroom to do so. The Wooden Center will provide free masks to students who have forgotten, misplaced, or damaged their masks. **If, for health reasons, you are unable to wear a mask for the duration of discussion, please contact the [Center for Accessible Education (CAE)](#) for assistance.**

- Students without approved exemptions must be fully vaccinated by September 9th. Students who have received vaccination exemptions must test for COVID-19 twice per week. Vaccinated students are encouraged, but not required, to test for COVID-19 once per week.

- Each student must complete a [daily symptom check](#) in order to be cleared to enter the university campus.

If you feel unwell or have been potentially exposed to COVID-19, please stay home. **You may miss one or two discussions throughout the quarter and still receive the full 10 points for the group work portion of your final grade. Additionally, if you are unable to be physically present in class for any reason, you may attend a virtual discussion that week in lieu of the physical discussion without being marked absent.** (More details on this option are forthcoming.) I always welcome questions about discussions during my office hours, and so if you are unable to attend discussion for any reason (or even if you are able to attend discussion but still have some follow-up questions!), please feel free to ask; I will be happy to catch you up on anything you have missed.

Please be aware that refusal to comply with COVID-19 mitigation protocol may result in a dismissal from the classroom and a referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Thank you for your help in keeping our classroom safe!

Course resources

The following are some texts for Math 33A that you may find helpful (NOTE: These are not required materials!):

- *Linear Algebra Done Right*, by Axler. (This book is heavy on proofs, which are not the focus of our course, but its explanations and examples are elucidating.)

- *Introduction to Linear Algebra*, by Strang.
The following are some web resources for Math 33A that you may find helpful (you can click the bold text to access each site):

- **Dr. Rose Morris-Wright’s webpage.**
- **Wolfram Alpha**, a computational intelligence program capable of carrying out many of the procedures (e.g., diagonalization) we will consider in this course.

**Student resources**

I am passionate about advocating for and supporting my students, and I recognize that the transition back to in-person instruction may introduce many new stressors. If you are facing obstacles of any kind that are interfering with your ability to succeed in this course, please feel free to reach out to me. The following are additional resources that may be helpful and that are continuing to operate online during the COVID-19 campus closure (you can click the bold text to access each site):

- **UCLA Students in Crisis:** [From the website] This program pairs students “struggling with mental or physical health, facing an unexpected challenge or crisis, or experiencing a personal loss” with case managers trained to “support students by exploring options, identifying on-campus resources, and helping students to create a plan for their next steps”.

- **Bruin Resource Center:** [From the website] The Bruin Resource Center “serves all UCLA students, with a particular emphasis on current and former foster youth, students with dependents, students in recovery, undocumented students, and students impacted by the criminal justice system”.

- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** [From the website] CAPS “is here to support your mental health needs as you pursue your academic goals”. Services include one-on-one and group counseling, psychiatric evaluation and treatment, and a 24-hour emergency hotline at 310-825-0768.

- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center:** [From the website] The LGBT Resource Center “provide[s] a comprehensive range of education and advocacy services supporting intersectional identity development as well as fostering unity, wellness, and an open, safe, and inclusive environment for UCLA’s LGBTQ community”.

- **Center for Accessible Education (CAE):** The CAE assists students with requesting and enforcing disability accommodations.

- **Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars:** [From the website] The Dashew Center is “the central hub for resources, support and advocacy for international students and scholars”.

- **UCLA Title IX Office:** [From the website] “The Title IX Office receives reports of gender discrimination, including allegations of sexual harassment and sexual violence.”
• **UCLA COVID-19 Resources:** This is the go-to site for information about UCLA’s COVID-19 policies, procedures, and safety tips.