

Nebraska Wesleyan University
Math 1450: Finite Mathematics (Section 1)
Fall 02015

Instructor: Austin Mohr
Text: Finite Mathematics
Sixth Edition
Waner & Constenoble
Time: MWThF 11:00 am – 11:50 am
Room: Olin 111
Office: Olin 109D
Office Hours: MWThF 10:00 am – 11:00 am (or by appointment)
Email: amohr@nebrwesleyan.edu
Cell: (803)-543-8735
Course Website: AustinMohr.com/Finite
Drop Deadline: Friday, October 30 at 5:00 pm
Final Exam: Thursday, December 17 at 2:00 pm

Course Description

A survey of specialized mathematical techniques used to solve contemporary problems in business, economics and the social sciences. Topics include linear regression, matrix algebra, optimization, logic, and probability.

Grading Scale

A: 90–100, B+: 85–89, B: 80–84, C+: 75–79, C: 70–74, D+: 65–70, D: 60–65, F: below 60

Assignments

Participation	1 point total
Required Homework	4 points total (combined pre- and post-class homework)
Extra Credit Homework	2 extra credit points total
Projects	1 point each (probably 4 or 5 projects)
Exams	16 points total (see section on exams)

Things to Buy

- WebAssign Access Code: Purchase at the bookstore or online at WebAssign.net.
- Printed Textbook (optional): Your WebAssign access code grants access to a digital version of the textbook, so you only need a printed textbook if you want one.
- Calculator (optional): A standard graphing calculator (such as TI-83) may be useful but is not required if you bring an internet-enabled device to use WolframAlpha.

WebAssign

All homework will be submitted through WebAssign. Sign up for an account at WebAssign.net using the access code you purchased and the class key **nebrwesleyan 2510 3993**.

Daily Routine

Before class:

- Read the textbook pages or watch the video specified in the homework assignment on WebAssign.
- Complete the homework assignment (labeled “Pre-Class”). Pre-class assignments are due by 4 am on the day it is to be discussed. (The point is that you hopefully sleep between the time you complete the homework and the time you come to class to discuss it.)

During class:

- I will have a few things to say to the whole class.
- Afterwards, I will give some questions to try in groups for the remainder of the time. Your solutions are *not* graded, but your willingness to work with classmates during this time constitutes your participation grade.

After class:

- I will post a short follow-up homework (labeled “Post-Class”) on WebAssign. Post-class assignments are due one week from the day the relevant material was discussed in class.
- Consider working extra credit assignments (labeled “Extra Credit”) on WebAssign, paying special attention to the ideas you found most challenging. Each extra credit assignment is available for the entire semester.

Extra Help

- Me: Come to my office hours or email/call me to schedule another time.
- Math Tutoring Center: Walk-in tutoring is provided by Nebraska Wesleyan mathematics majors every Monday through Thursday evenings in the Cooper Center.

Accommodations

Nebraska Wesleyan University seeks to maintain a supportive academic environment for students with disabilities. To ensure their equal access to all educational programs, activities, and services, federal law requires that students with disabilities notify the university, provide documentation, and request reasonable accommodations. If you need accommodation in this course, please notify me so that I can verify that the required documentation is filed with the Academic Affairs Office and that your accommodation plan is in place. You should also meet with Prof. Sandy McBride, the Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator (Old Main 126, 465-2346, smcbride@nebrwesleyan.edu).

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the basic principles of a university community. Nebraska Wesleyan University encourages and expects the highest standards of academic honesty from all students. The Student Code of Conduct states that “cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty” are subject to disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for additional information. Academically dishonest students may receive penalties up to and including receiving an F in the course.

Exams

We will be making use of “Mastery-Based Examinations”. I learned of the concept from Professor George McNulty, for whom I have the utmost respect. It is quite an unusual system, so I will describe it briefly here. Please do not hesitate to ask me for clarification.

Short Description

You only receive credit for completely correct responses, but you will get many chances throughout the semester to display mastery.

Long Description

I have boiled the course down to sixteen essential types of questions. Your first in-class exam will be the first four of these questions. Your second in-class exam will consist of eight questions total: the first four questions are slight variations of those from the first exam, while the other four questions will be new. In a similar fashion, the third in-class exam will consist of twelve questions (only four of which are new) and the fourth in-class exam will consist of sixteen questions (only four of which are new). The final exam will not have any truly new questions, but will consist of variations of the questions you have already seen.

A problem is given a grade of “Master” when you have demonstrated full understanding of the concept being tested. If you fail to master a question on the first try, you may attempt the similar version that appears on later tests. Once you have mastered a question, you need not attempt it ever again.

Your overall exam grade will be determined by the number of questions you have mastered by the end of the course.

<u># Mastered</u>	<u>Exam Grade</u>
16	100%
15	96%
14	92%
13	88%
12	84%
11	80%
10	76%
9	72%
8	68%
7	64%
6	60%
5	50%
4	40%
3	30%
2	20%
1	10%