

Mathematics 1150: Precalculus, Spring 2025 Syllabus

Class Meetings. MTWF 8:00am-8:50am

Location. ECCR 131

Instructor. Champ Davis

Instructor email. champ.davis@colorado.edu

Office Hours. M 10:30am-12:30pm, W 10:30am-11:30am (subject to change)

Office. MATH 237

Course Teaching Assistant. Summer Haag

Course Learning Assistant. Russel Stevens

Course Website. <https://math.colorado.edu/~chda1090/>

Course Information:

Prerequisites:

MATH 1011 with a grade of C- or higher, or CU Boulder math placement into MATH 1150.

Textbook and WebAssign Access:

We will use the textbook “Precalculus with Corequisite Support,” 7th Edition, by Stewart, Redlin, and Watson. The e-book and WebAssign come with a Cengage Unlimited subscription through CU’s Book Access program, for which you are automatically billed through your tuition \$269 (plus tax). This flat fee gains you access to the materials for ALL of your courses this semester. If you wish to opt-out of the Book Access program, you can opt-out by January 29, 2025, but you will lose access to your course materials and must purchase them separately.

Equipment and Software:

- **Smart phone (or tablet) and scanner app:** So that you can submit written assignments online as a single PDF file, you will need a scanner app for your smart phone or tablet. Many smart phones already have a scanner, such as in the Notes app on iPhones or in the Google Drive app. There are other scanner apps available to download with free basic subscription options.
- **Calculators:** You do not need to purchase a graphing calculator. You can use the free graphing website Desmos. A basic scientific calculator or free online calculator will suffice when you need it on homework. **Absolutely no such devices will be allowed on exams.**
- **Computer, webcam, microphone, & Zoom:** Your instructor may choose to host office hours remotely on Zoom. In this case, you will need a computer equipped with a webcam, microphone, and Zoom. Zoom can be downloaded for free through CU’s website at <https://oit.colorado.edu/services/conferencing-services/web-conferencing-zoom>.
- *Note:* If class must temporarily or permanently switch to a remote modality, then all students will be required to have a computer equipped with a webcam, microphone, and Zoom. If (and only if) the university must update guidelines and prohibit in-person exams, then all students will be required to download and use the free Google Chrome extension Proctorio for exams.

Canvas:

See our course's Canvas <https://canvas.colorado.edu> for up-to-date course information, practice exams, homework assignments, a link to WebAssign, the course schedule, lists of instructors and Graduate Teaching Assistants, a copy of this syllabus, and links to additional resources.

Course Structure:

Research shows that people learn mathematics best when they are actively participating. In other words, you learn by doing, not by watching. Therefore, MATH 1150 meets in small sections, which allows individual and group work. You will be actively engaged with solving problems, making discoveries, and understanding connections. This course is designed for a classroom which does not follow a traditional lecture format. Do not be surprised if your instructor often spends only half a class period lecturing or solving problems. The rest of the time, you should expect to be working at your desk, either individually or in groups.

In this course you will learn a number of useful formulas, though their mastery is not the primary purpose of precalculus any more than correct spelling is the primary purpose of literature. Our goal is to have you learn how to understand precalculus conceptually so you can build your own approaches to solving practical problems.

We will use a variety of recitation projects and in-class activities where you will collaborate in small groups to discover, extend, and apply precalculus concepts.

Course Content:

Topics include algebra, trigonometry, and limits, as well as applications.

Mathematics Academic Resource Center:

The Mathematics Academic Resource Center (MARC) is a free service provided by the Department of Mathematics that offers students additional support for their CU Mathematics courses. They will be offering in-person assistance Monday-Thursday at 9 am-9 pm and on Fridays at 9 am-4 pm. They will also be providing a limited amount of assistance remotely. Visit their website <https://math.colorado.edu/marc/> for more information.

Assignments and Assessments:

The only effective way to learn mathematics is to do lots and lots of problems. Besides working on problems in class every day, you will have assignments and assessments in this course to enhance your skills and understanding.

Online homework:

WebAssign is an online system for doing homework. When you log on, you are given problems that you solve on paper and then enter the answers. These problems are generally straightforward or computational, and you can repeat them multiple times until you get the correct answer. The philosophy behind this is that instantaneous feedback is more effective than waiting days for a grade, and that doing a problem over if it's wrong is better than simply seeing the right answer. Because problems are graded by a computer, there are occasional technical issues, but we believe the trade-off is worthwhile. WebAssign can be accessed through the link in Canvas.

If you added the course before 9:00 am on Friday, January 10, you are already enrolled in our WebAssign course. If you added the course after this time, or if you have switched sections, then contact Jeff Taylor at math-help@colorado.edu so he can enroll you in WebAssign or switch your WebAssign access to the correct section. Include your first and last name, your CU email address, your IdentiKey username (not your password), and the course and section number you are enrolled in. You can find your WebAssign Assignments by clicking on the following link: <https://www.webassign.net/colorado/login.html>.

The weekly WebAssign assignments will be due throughout the week. There will be a WebAssign assignment for each topic we cover. **Please check the due dates regularly**, as you are responsible for getting the assignments done on time. You will have 5 attempts for each individual question. We will allow you to miss 10% of the total WebAssign points for the semester with no penalty, so you don't need to panic if you miss a problem here and there. If you have concerns about completing a WebAssign by the deadline, please discuss your concerns with your instructor.

You may email your instructor to ask about a WebAssign problem, but when you do, make sure to include "MATH 1150" in the subject line, give a clear statement of the problem you are trying to solve, say what you have already tried and why you think it should have worked. Screenshots also work well. Ask your instructor for their particular policy regarding emailing questions.

Teamwork Tuesdays:

There will be a total of 15 recitation projects done in class on Tuesdays. The goal is for you and your group to work through these projects on your own as much as possible. Your TA and LA will be making sure that you participate in your group's explorations and discoveries. Your grade is largely based on active participation in a group. Your lowest 3 TT scores will be dropped. There are no make up TTs.

In-Class Activities:

On Mondays and Wednesdays (and the occasional Fridays) there will be some sort of in-class activity (called an IC). This could be in the form of a worksheet or working through an example problem. Your grade is largely based on active participation in a group. Your lowest 4 IC scores will be dropped. There are no make up ICs.

Written Homework:

You will be assigned several conceptual and computational problems each week. These problems are posted in a PDF on Canvas. You are expected to write up complete, legible, and logical solutions to these problems, which will be graded by your TA. Your solutions should be written using complete sentences to explain your steps. Your work should be scanned as a single PDF file and submitted via Canvas by 11:59 pm on the due date (Fridays). Your lowest 2 written homework scores will be dropped. If you have concerns about completing a written homework by the deadline, discuss your concerns with your TA.

Homework Honor Code Policy and Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence:

Doing academic work, such as homework, requires that you submit work that is your own. You may work with your classmates on homework to understand the problems and even to solve them (in fact, we encourage it). However, when you write up your solutions, this should be done independently, and in your own words. Thus, it is your own language and your own work. If you are wondering if you crossed the line, ask yourself, "Could I start over and redo this on my own, and would it

basically look like this?” If not, then you are submitting someone else’s work, which is an Honor Code violation.

Students are not allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) on any assignment in this course. Solutions generated by AI are not considered your own work. Submitting solutions generated by an AI program/software is considered a form of plagiarism. Similarly, copying homework solutions from the internet, such as from Chegg, or other similar websites, also constitutes plagiarism. Posting questions to Chegg is also an Honor Code violation.

If you are found to be in violation of the Honor Code in any way on homework, the first infraction will result in a grade of zero on that homework. The second infraction will result in a full letter grade deduction on your semester grade (e.g., from a B+ to a C+). The third infraction will result in an F for the course. All infractions will be reported to the Honor Code Board.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given in class on Fridays on non-Exam weeks. They are meant to be a quick check of your understanding. Your lowest 2 quiz scores will be dropped. The penalties for cheating on quizzes are the same as those for the homework. Note that these are cumulative (cheating once on two things results in a letter grade drop, etc.).

Exams:

There will be 3 in-person midterm exams given in the evening outside of class for 1.5 hours, and a 2.5-hour comprehensive final exam given in person during the final exam period. Absolute no computing/graphing technology will be allowed on exams, nor will they be needed. **Use of any outside resources at any time during the exams will be considered cheating.** If you miss a midterm, then your final exam will replace one missed midterm grade. If (and only if) the university must update guidelines and prohibit in-person exams, then exams will be given remotely on Canvas using the proctoring software Proctorio.

Midterm 1: Monday, February 3, 5:45 pm-7:15 pm (room TBD)

Midterm 2: Monday, March 3, 5:45 pm-7:15 pm (room TBD)

Midterm 3: Monday, April 7, 5:45 pm-7:15 pm (room TBD)

Final Exam: Saturday, May 3, 10:30 am-1:00 pm (room TBD)

Exam Honor Code Policy: If you are found to be in violation of the Honor Code on exams, the first infraction will result in a full letter grade deduction on your semester grade (e.g., from a B+ to a C+) or an F for the course (depending on the severity of the infraction). The second infraction will result in an F for the course. All infractions will be reported to the Honor Code Board.

Grades: The grade distribution will be calculated based on the following weightings:

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Midterms (42%) | • Teamwork Tuesday (TT) projects (5%) |
| • Final Exam (18%) | • In-Class (IC) activities (5%) |
| • WebAssign (10%) | • Quizzes (10%) |
| • Written homework (10%) | |

Note 1: While the allotted dropped or replaced grades in this course can be used for low grades or missed grades, the intended purpose of any drops or replacements is to alleviate the stress on your

semester grade due to unpredictable or unavoidable non-academic circumstances. Do your best work so that you can reserve your drops for non-academic circumstances. However, if prolonged illness, family emergencies, or crisis situations cause you to miss a substantial number of classes or assignments, please contact the instructor and the course coordinator as soon as possible.

If your personal circumstances prevent you from completing a substantial number of assignments by the deadlines, then you are encouraged to contact [Student Support & Case Management](#). A case manager can verify your circumstances and contact your instructor on your behalf.

Note 2: If you register late for this course (after January 22), notify your instructor as soon as possible to determine a plan of action to catch up on the missed material.

Note 3: To compensate for students having occasional bad days, the weighting of the midterms will be distributed as follows: 12% for your lowest midterm, 14% for your second lowest midterm, and 16% for your highest midterm. These weights will only be assigned after all three midterms have been given. Until that time, each midterm will weigh 14%. Also, if your final exam score is higher than your lowest midterm score, then your final exam score will replace your lowest midterm score, and the replacement will still weigh 12%. This replacement accommodation can only be applied to exactly one midterm, and it can be used for a low midterm grade or a missed midterm (but not both).

Note 4: If you miss exactly one midterm, your missed midterm score will be replaced by your final exam score and will weigh 12%. This replacement accommodation can only be applied to exactly one midterm. If you miss two midterms, then you must drop the class, or petition for a late drop. If you miss the final exam, you must petition for an incomplete. There is no guarantee that a late drop petition or a petition for an incomplete will be approved.

Note 5: In the unlikely event that the university cancels the final exam, the weighting will be 60% for the three midterms combined, and the weighting for the other coursework will remain 40% as stated above. In the unlikely event that a midterm is canceled, the weighting will be 42% for the other midterms combined.

University Policies and Standards

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please notify your instructor as soon as possible so that we can offer advice and determine a reasonable accommodation. In many cases, we will encourage you to contact [Disability Services](#) and/or [Student Support & Case Management](#) who will then contact us with advice on reasonable accommodations.

Accommodation for Religious Obligations

Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. In this class, please notify your instructor as soon as possible, preferably at least two weeks prior to the conflict, to discuss options so that we can provide reasonable accommodations.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-

campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and [OIEC support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors are required to inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these concerns regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about their options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

Mental Health and Wellness

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.