

Syllabus for Math 4499, Multivariate Calculus, Fall 2026

Class information

Section: Math 4499-001
Time: 9:05–10:20AM, MWF
Location: Ratliff Building North 4025

Instructor information

Name: Joseph Vandehey
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Book: *OpenStax Calculus: Volume 3* by Gilbert Strang and Edwin Herman
available for free at <https://openstax.org/details/books/calculus-volume-3>
Office Hours: 1:30–4:30 PM Thursday or by appointment

We will use Canvas in this course. Homework assignments, grades, study guides, and even this syllabus will all be posted to Canvas.

1. COURSE CONTENT

Vector calculus in Euclidean n -space, functions of several variables, partial differentiation, and multiple integration. We will focus on chapters 2–6 in your book, although some topics may be dropped for time.

2. GRADING

Class item	Percent of total grade
Homework	5%
Quizzes	15%
Exams	80%

On quizzes and tests, the final answer is often worth far less than any other part of the problem. I care about good mathematical process over anything else. Always, always show your work. Because showing your work is important, I will mark down for extremely messy work or for bad notation.

As I recognize that life is sometimes hectic, the lowest homework grade and lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Exam scores will *not* be dropped or replaced.

At the end of the semester, your final letter grade will be determined *roughly* as follows:

90% or higher	A
Between 80% and 90%	B
Between 70% and 80%	C
Between 60% and 70%	D
60% or lower	F

Any deviations from the above rubric will only be to your benefit.

3. HOMEWORK

There will be a homework assignment due every Friday (and generally assigned a week prior). I will grade it based solely on *effort*. You are not required to have completed every problem. Homework questions will mostly come from odd numbered problems and the answers will be available to you at the back of your textbook. As such, in order to receive full credit, you must show your work. To incentivize good homework practices, I will sometimes borrow homework problems for quizzes and tests.

You are free to work with other students on homework problems, but I would like you to submit your individual work. All homework can be turned in virtually on Canvas, and you are free to turn in PDFs, jpgs, or other common image formats. Please do not use HEIC or ZIP formats as they are unreadable on Canvas.

Feel free to make use of online calculators, especially to help with visualization. Some good calculators to use are Desmos (at desmos.com) or Math3d (at math3d.org) or Wolfram Alpha (at wolframalpha.com).

In the case of a pre-arranged excused absence (e.g., for a sporting event), I would still like you to turn in homework. For all other excused absences (e.g., a sudden illness), you do not need to turn in homework, and the score will be dropped.

The most recent material covered in a given homework will be the material covered on the Monday of the week the homework is due.

4. QUIZZES

Quizzes will be given every Friday at the end of class, unless there is an exam that week. They will generally last for twenty minutes. There will not be any make-up quizzes. If you have an excused absence, then the score will simply be dropped: it will have no impact on your grade.

The most recent material covered in a given quiz will be the material covered on the Monday of the week of the quiz. The first quiz will be given August 28th and will cover material from the syllabus and review topics.

5. MIDTERMS

There will be three midterms during this semester.

Exam 1	Friday September 18, Week 4
Exam 2	Friday October 16, Week 8
Exam 3	Friday November 14, Week 13

Midterms will be held in class and last the full class period. If you are late to class, you will not be granted additional time to complete your midterm. Midterms are *not* cumulative (except in the ways they must be) and will only cover material discussed in class since the previous midterm. The cut-off date for new material for a given midterm will generally be the Friday the week before of the midterm: material from the week of the midterm will *not* appear on the exam.

6. FINAL

As our class uses a non-standard class time, we do not yet know when we will be taking the final. However, for section 001, the final exam will likely be Monday, December 7th, 8AM–10AM. For section 002, the final exam will likely be Wednesday, December 9th, 10:15AM–12:15PM.

The final will consist of two parts. The first part will be essentially a fourth midterm over the material you have not yet been tested on. The second part will be a review of the material learned throughout the semester. The two parts will be of similar length.

7. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- (1) Exceptions to the above rules will be made in the case of extreme circumstances.
- (2) There is no special attendance policy for this course.
- (3) Please note that September 8th is the census date for this course, which is the deadline for all registration and schedule changes.
- (4) Cheating on quizzes or exams is strictly prohibited and carries severe consequences, up to and including expulsion from the university. You are, however, actively encouraged to work together on homework assignments, provided you write up your own solutions and hand them in independently.
- (5) Calculators, phones, tablets, laptops, or any other computing or communication devices are not permitted on quizzes or tests. Use of them will be considered cheating.
- (6) If you believe I have graded a quiz or exam in error, come see me at the end of the class in which I handed it back. Leaving class with the quiz or exam means you accept the grade you have been given.
- (7) I frown upon the use of erasers on quizzes and tests. They make me sad. If you think your work is wrong, cross it out. Do not erase! I cannot give partial credit for work that has been erased and I can no longer read.

8. SPECIAL COMMENTS ABOUT AI

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

In this class, to best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments without the aid of AI. Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course content (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for any classroom assignment.

This syllabus is a general guideline for the course. Deviations may be necessary as the semester progresses.