

Introduction to WeBWorK.

Welcome to WeBWorK!

I. What is WeBWorK ?

- *WeBWorK* is a system that allows professors to put the homework problems on the web and allows students to solve these problems over the web.
- Using *WeBWorK*, students may try to answer homework problems more than once. After each try, a message appears telling the student whether the answer is correct or not. This allows students to try to find out what they did wrong and hopefully to understand the topic of the question better. With some diligence, every student can get a perfect score.
- Each *WeBWorK* problem set is individualized (each student has a different version of each problem, for example the numerical values in the formulas may be slightly different). It is OK to work with other students on the *WeBWorK*.

II. How to use *WeBWorK* to do your homework

1. Use any computer with any browser.
2. Go to the course *WeBWorK* site, using the link at our class home page. Start at <http://www.nau.edu/Jim.Swift> . (Searching for “Jim Swift” works, but searching for “Jim Swift MAT 136” might get you to a previous semester’s class web page.) From my home page, follow the links to “Instructor Information”, then to our course home page. Make sure it is this semester’s web page, and then bookmark it. The best way to get to *WeBWorK* is to use the link on our class home page. Contact me if you are not able to get to the *WeBWorK* login page for our class, or if you are unable to log in.
3. This will get you to *WeBWorK* login page for our course. Enter your login name and password, and click on the ‘Continue’ button. Your *WeBWorK* login name is your LOUIE login name: for example mine is jws8. Your *WeBWorK* password is synchronized with your LOUIE password.
4. When you login, you will see the Main Menu and a list of the assigned Homework Sets. You may click on Password/Email in the Main Menu to change your preferred e-mail address from the default, which is something like “jws8@nau.edu”. I will use this address to communicate with the class. You cannot change your LOUIE password at this page, though.

III. Completing Problem Sets

1. If necessary, click on Homework Sets in the Main Menu, and then select the set you wish to complete. If you are new to *WeBWorK* you should do set 00_Intro_to_WeBWorK. Experienced users might learn something too. (This is worth 3 extra credit class points.)
2. You may want get hard copy of the problem sets. This will allow you to work on the problems with paper and pencil before entering answers in the computer, and it will give you a convenient copy of the homework sets to use when studying for exams. Click on [Download a hardcopy of this homework set.](#) This makes a pdf that you can save to your hard drive and/or print.

3. To enter answers, click to a problem and fill in the answer box(es) using calculator syntax (e.g. x^2). Click “Check Answer,” and the *WeBWorK* system will tell you immediately whether your answer is correct. If your answer is incorrect, look at the Answer Preview in the grid at the top of the problem. There might also be a helpful Message. You may rework the problem and enter another answer repeatedly until you get the correct answer. There is no penalty for taking several attempts to get the correct answer. On some problems, the number of attempts is limited. In any case, you can click on “Preview Answers” to get some feedback without using an attempt, but you must then click “Submit Answers” to get credit.
4. You do not have to complete all the problems in a single session. You can logout and login again later and work on the set some more.
5. As long as the problem set is still “Open” (the due date has not yet occurred), your answers will be accepted by the system and correct answers will contribute to your score. If the set is closed, you may still work the problems, but your score will not change. Also, once the set is closed, you have the option to see correct answers. You may ask for an extension of the due date *before* the set is closed. I can (at my discretion) push back the due date for the whole class, or for an individual.
6. When you select a homework set, your status on the problems is displayed. It is my hope that you get 100% on every problem. You can click on Grades in the Main Menu to get an overview of your scores on all your sets. Your scores automatically show up on my computer. Every homework set is worth 10 class points toward your course grade. (For comparison, each midterm exam is worth 100 class points.) For example, if you get a score of 9.00 out of 12 on a certain set, you get $9.00/12*10 = 7.5$ out of 10 class points for that homework set. Your grade does not depend on how many attempts you make, but this does affect the “success indicator” in the “Ind” column.
7. When finished, click the “Logout” button at the top right corner of the page.

IV. What to do if you have problems with WeBWorK:

- If you have a problem logging in, contact me at Jim.Swift@nau.edu.
- After you are logged in, the best way to contact me is with the Email instructor button. This gives me information about the problem you are working on, and I can see your attempted answers. If you email me by 10pm the night before a set is due I will get back to you that night. Of course, I prefer that you send your questions well in advance of the due date.
- If you are logged on to *WeBWorK* too long without any activity, you will be asked to log in again. You can resume your work after you log back in. All your results from the last login will be saved.