Got an email from one student, he pointed out an interesting issue:

A few of my friends in other CS classes have told me their tests and their final exam will be open notes along with being able to use matlab. I’m just wondering if we’ll be able to do the same. I don’t understand how one class is able to use open notes and matlab and we haven’t.

Well, if I allow open notes and allow you to use MATLAB in the exam. Then I have to test you for more practical and harder questions, like give you a few real problems that you need to solve by creating your own scripts. For example, to create a Monthly calendar, to print out a multiplication table, to find the monthly payment for a mortgage plan under various rates for various amounts. If I give you the same questions as now, you can use MATLAB to get at least a 90% score because they are straight-forward fundamental questions and you don’t even need to think, then why bother to test you? I just assign an 'A' grade to everyone to save my breath. You study this class in order to solve problems by using MATLAB, if you cannot understand every syntax and cannot use them and/or combine them to create a useful script, then why bother taking this class. So, the purpose of our exam is to make sure you know the syntaxes and know what to expect for whatever you try to do.

Regards,

Prof. H.