Course Syllabus: Linear Algebra
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering
Math 2753 Section 101
Fall 2023

Contact Information
Instructor: Dr. Dawn Slavens
Office: BO 118L Bolin Science Hall
Office hours: Mon. 3-4 PM; Tues. 10-11 AM & 2-3 PM; Wed. 11:15-11:45 AM;
     Thurs. 10-11 AM; Fri. 11:15 AM – 11:45 AM

    *Other office hours are available by appointment. Appointments can be made by sending Dr. Slavens an email request for an appointment. Include your available days and times for the appointment within the email.

Office phone: (940) 397-4013
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Class Meeting Days, Times, Location
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:50 PM, in BO 103

Course Description
An applied approach to systems of linear equations and matrices, linear transformations and matrices, determinates, eigenvalues and eigenvectors. Use of technology such as MATLAB and calculators with matrix capabilities is integrated into the course.
Prerequisite: Math 1634

Textbook & Instructional Materials
Required Textbook: Elementary Linear Algebra, 8e, by Ron Larson

Homework problems will be regularly assigned from the textbook. While I will not regularly collect homework, working the assigned homework problems is how you master course content. The quizzes and exams that I give will assess your mastery of course content. So the homework is not optional, but required, of any student that expects to do well in the course. The instructor reserves the right to collect homework at any time during the semester and use it as the basis of a quiz grade.

Calculator Recommendation: A regular non-graphing calculator is generally allowed for exams and quizzes. Later in the course, I may allow a calculator that does matrix calculations when taking an exam or quiz. By the time I allow such a calculator, I will have introduced you to MATLAB which could substitute for a calculator that does matrix calculations.

This course includes use of MATLAB. This software is available in computer labs in Bolin Hall. You can also download the free application Octave from https://www.gnu.org/software/octave/download.html for use on your own computer; Octave will function in essentially the same way as MATLAB.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)
You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage.

On D2L, I will post the following:
- Announcements and occasional reminders.
- Assigned homework problems from the textbook.
- Links to video lectures that I assign you to watch.
- Your grades on exams and quizzes.
- Attendance (specifically absences and tardies)

Punctuality and Attendance Policy
Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Students should arrive to class on-time and remain for the entire class period. Arriving late or leaving early may result in being counted as absent.

In particular, what you need to know about being absent from this class:

1. **A student who accumulates more than two unexcused or more than five total (excused and unexcused combined) absences may be instructor dropped from the class with a grade of WF or F. Further, a student who accumulates two unexcused absences will receive a 1% reduction per additional absence to their course average.**
2. Any student who leaves class early will be counted as absent. This includes a student leaving class and then later returning to class.
3. Since Dr. Slavens records attendance at the beginning of class, any student that arrives even a minute late will be counted absent unless at the end of class the student addresses the reason with Dr. Slavens for arriving late AND the student has not established a habit of arriving late. Arriving more than 15 minutes late will automatically count as an absence.
4. Any student who is physically present but not mentally present and engaged in class will be counted as absent.
5. Any student who violates the Cell Phone and Computer Policy (Includes Electronic Devices and Earbuds) will be counted as absent.
6. A student who is counted absent from class will receive a 0 on any work submitted during that day's class.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to
1. see Dr. Slavens in her office before the next class (not during the next class), for any handouts from the day(s) you missed,

2. get notes from another student for the day(s) you missed, and
3. provide Dr. Slavens with written documentation (for example, a doctor's note for a non-routine appointment) if you would like to request that the absence be considered as excused.

Grading

Your course grade will be computed based on the following categories:

Category	Weight
Quizzes	20%
General Exams	54%
Cumulative Final Exam	26%

The standard 90-80-70-60 grading scale will be used to assign course grades.

**Note: There is no extra credit given in this course.

Taking Class Notes

You are expected to take notes during class lecture. Good notes can be a helpful resource for you as you are working the assigned homework problems and as you are preparing for quizzes and exams. When a portion of class lecture is given through videos (referred to as video supplements) you should take notes as you watch the video.

Homework

Homework problems from the text will be regularly assigned by posting the assigned problem numbers from each section of the text covered in the course on the course D2L page. You should keep a homework notebook for working assigned homework problems. Your homework notebook should include the following:

1. Label each assignment with the textbook section number and include the list of assigned problems for the section.
2. For all computational type problems, copy the problem (unless it is a word problem) into your homework notebook and include your written work for solving the problem.
3. Number the problems in your homework notebook with the problem number from the textbook.
4. *Bring your homework notebook with you to each class meeting.* At times you may be allowed to use your homework notebook when taking a quiz.

Math is learned through practice. Therefore, it is important that you create a weekly schedule for yourself that allows you adequate time to work on solving the assigned homework problems. Since this is a 3 credit-hour course, you should expect to spend 6-to-9 hours per week outside of class working on

learning the content of this course. The vast majority of these hours should be spent doing homework problems.

Quizzes

Quizzes (both announced and unannounced) will frequently be given in class. Bring a non-graphing calculator with you to class so that you have it to take quizzes. Some quizzes may allow the use of MATLAB or a calculator with matrix calculation capabilities, but most will not. You should always arrive to class familiar with the material covered in the previous class meeting. Problems on quizzes will be similar to those in the assigned homework or those discussed in class lecture. A student that is not in the classroom within three minutes of the time a quiz is handed out will receive a zero on the quiz. Make-up quizzes will not be given. If you are absent and I have excused the absence, I may give you "no score" for the quiz instead of a score of 0. Excused absences require timely documentation of illness, personal emergency, or university approved activity. Scheduling an appointment, such as a routine doctor's appointment, during class time does not constitute an excused absence.

Exam Dates

Exam dates (subject to change with prior notice) are as follows:
Exam 1: Thursday, Sept. 28
Exam 2: Thursday, Oct. 26
Exam 3: Tuesday, Nov. 21
Final Exam: Thursday, Dec. 14th, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Some exams, or portions of an exam, may be required to be completed with only a non-graphing calculator. When this is the case, the exam, or portion of the exam, will contain problems that Dr. Slavens believes can be completed without a calculator.

Make-Up Exams

Make-up exams are not generally given; however, such exams may be given for an absence that is a result of a documented medical or personal emergency. If an exam is going to be missed due to an approved university activity, the student should request to take the exam early. For missed exams, timely notification (for emergencies, on or before the scheduled day of the exam, and for approved university activities, a week prior to the scheduled day of the exam) is necessary to receive consideration to make-up the exam or take the exam early. Once graded exams have been returned to the class, which generally occurs the class meeting following the day of the exam, it will no longer be possibly to make-up a missed exam. No student will be allowed to make-up more than one exam during the semester. No exams may be made up due to a student scheduling a vacation on a day when classes are in session.

When you need help with this course, where can you go?

1. To your professor's office, Bolin 118L. You should have with you both your notes and all of the related work from your homework notebook that you have done over the topic(s) you are seeking help with.

2. To the *Tutoring and Academic Support Program* (*TASP*), located in Moffett Library, offers free additional tutoring in math as well as other courses. You can find out more about their services by visiting their office or searching *TASP* on the MSU website. Fall tutoring and Homework Help Lounge will begin offering services on Tuesday, Sept 5th. Their services will end on Thursday, Dec 7th. The TASP Learning Center (TLC) does not offer tutoring during the week of final exams.

Academic Misconduct Policy

All work that you submit for this course that contributes to your course grade must be your own work. Any evidence that you submitted work that is not your own is considered an act of academic dishonesty. An act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the university and will result in one of the following academic sanctions:

- Receiving a 0 on the quiz or exam.
- Receiving a 0 for your entire quiz average for the semester (20%).
- Receiving an F in MATH 2753
- Receiving an F in MATH 2753 that will remain permanent on your transcript and within your MSU GPA.

When taking an exam or quiz you are never to receive outside help of any sort and you are never to use any online resources. On homework, you may get assistance from others, but you are responsible for understanding any work submitted to be graded. In addition, copying solutions from online resources or using online resources that will work a problem for you is considered an act of academic misconduct if you do not cite within your submitted work the resource that you used. The university's academic dishonesty policy can be found in the [student handbook](#)

Cell Phone and Computer Policy

Use of a computer is not allowed in the classroom. This includes desktop computers, laptops, tablets, cell phones, smart watches, earbuds and other similar devices. Students using such devices may be asked to leave class and/or may be counted absent from class. If a student's cell phone, smart watch, or similar device is visible or audible during an exam, you may receive a zero on that exam. In addition, other penalties under the Academic Misconduct Policy may apply. Students that are not compliant with this Cell Phone Policy may be referred to the Dean of Students Office and/or the student may be withdrawn from the class by the instructor. Some class activities will allow the use of the

computers provided in the room, but otherwise the computer screen should be turned off. If any aspect of this policy presents a serious problem, please let me know; exceptions may be made in special circumstances.

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at Campus Carry Rules and Policies.

MSU Class Attendance Policy

Midwestern State University's Attendance Policy, which is contained in the MSU Student Handbook, states that students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Among other things, the policy covers the university's position on authorized absences, including who students should contact to inform faculty in cases of personal emergency or illness requiring hospitalization or prolonged absence. You may wish to review MSU's Class Attendance Policy within the Student Handbook.

Notice
Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.