

Course Syllabus: Linear Algebra
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering
Math 2753 Section 201
Spring 2023

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Dawn Slavens

Office: BO 118L Bolin Science Hall

Office hours: Mon. 9-11 AM; Tues. & Thurs. 2 – 3 PM; Wed. 3 - 4 PM.

Other times: email to set up an appointment

Note: Please do not come to class or to my office if you have a fever or if you have a current positive test for Covid-19. Please follow CDC guidelines regarding when you should wear a mask after contacting Covid-19 or after having been exposed to Covid-19.

Office phone: (940) 397-4013

E-mail: dawn.slavens@msutexas.edu

Class Meeting Days, Times, Location

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 – 12:20 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

Suggested problems will be regularly assigned from the textbook. While these problems will not generally be included in your grade, they will be invaluable as you prepare for quizzes and exams.

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.

Punctuality and Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class, which is 11 AM. Students should arrive to class on-time, have their material out and ready to take notes at the beginning of class, and remain in class for the entire class period. A student who arrives late or leaves early will be counted absent unless prior approval has been given by the instructor for the student missing a portion of class. Such approval requires the student to have a conversation with the instructor and explain the reason that the student needs to arrive late or leave early. Further, no student should have an ongoing expectation of being allowed to arrive late or leave early.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to

1. get notes from another student for the day(s) you missed, and
2. see Dr. Slavens before the next class (not during the next class), for any handouts from the day(s) you missed, and
3. provide Dr. Slavens with written documentation (doctor's note, etc.) if you would like to request that the absence be considered as excused.

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

1. Any student who arrives to class late or leaves early will be counted absent.
2. Any student who is physically present but not mentally present and engaged in class will be counted as absent.
3. Any student who violates the Cell Phone and Unauthorized Electronic Device Policy will be counted as absent.
4. A student who is counted absent from class will receive a 0 on any work submitted during that day's class.
5. For each absence beyond two, a student will receive a 1% deduction from his/her course average at the end of the semester.
6. A student who accumulates more than two unexcused or more than four total (excused and unexcused combined) absences may be instructor dropped from the class with a grade of F. Students that accumulate the number of absences mentioned above will receive at their D2L email address an email from the instructor notifying them that they are in danger of being instructor dropped from the course.

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.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

On D2L, I will post the following:

- Announcements and occasional reminders.
- Suggested 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 resulting in an absence)

I recommend the mobile Brightspace Pulse App. It will allow you to have quick access to anything posted within D2L.

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 suggested 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

Suggested problems will be regularly assigned from the textbook by posting the assigned problem numbers 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 suggested 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.
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 daily schedule for yourself that allows you adequate time to spend working 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. Most of those hours should be spent working assigned 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 suggested homework or those discussed in class lecture. A student that is not in the classroom within two minutes of the time a quiz is handed out will receive a zero on the quiz. Make-up quizzes will not be given for any reason. If you are absent and if I have excused your absence, I may give you "no score" for the quiz instead of a score of 0. Excused absences generally require timely documentation of illness, personal emergency, or university approved activity. Scheduling a routine doctor's appointment or other non-emergency type of 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, February 16

Exam 2: Thursday, March 23

Exam 3: Tuesday, April 25

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 9th, 1 – 3 PM

Some exams or portions of an exam may be required to be completed with only a non-graphing calculator. These exams or portions of an exam can be completed with no 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 usually occurs during the class meeting following the day of the exam, it will no longer be possible 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.

Cell Phone and Unauthorized Electronic Device Policy

Use of computers 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. Some class activities will allow the use of the computers provided in the room, but otherwise you should not be logged in. If any aspect of this policy presents a serious problem, please let me know; exceptions may be made in special circumstances.

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 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. 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](#)

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](#).

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

1. To your professor's office

You can attend office hours hosted by Dr. Slavens. When you do so, you will receive one-on-one help from the instructor who is teaching the course you are taking. When you attend an office hour (no appointment needed, see hours on page 1 of the syllabus) you should have with you both your notes and all of the related work that you have done over the topic(s) you are seeking help with.

2. To the *Tutoring and Academic Support Program (TASP)*. TASP is located in Moffett Library and offers one-on-one 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. TASP also offers a Math, Science, and Writing Homework Help Lounge Sunday through Thursday, 2:00 pm-9:00 pm. These services are free to students (included with the fees you have already paid). Generally the TASP opens at the beginning of the second week of the semester. Therefore, it should open on Monday, January 23rd.

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.