MAT211 – Introduction to Linear Algebra
Syllabus - Spring 2025

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MAT211/Introduction to Linear Algebra

Part 1: Course Overview

Course Information

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Click contact card to find office hours/location.

Course Description: Introduction to the theory of linear algebra with some applications; vectors, vector spaces, bases and dimension, applications to geometry, linear transformations and rank, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, determinants and inner products. May not be taken for credit in addition to AMS210.

Course Delivery Mode: Lectures are held in-person; attendance is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. Lectures are not recorded; lecture notes are posted within 24 hours of class.

General education designation(s) (SBC): STEM+

Credit hours: 3

Prerequisites: C or higher in AMS151 or MAT131 or 141 OR co-registration in MAT126 OR level 7 on the mathematics placement examination.

Required Course Textbooks and Materials

Textbook

Linear Algebra with Applications, Otto Bretscher, Fifth Edition. ISBN 978-0135162972

Calculator

You will NOT be permitted to use a calculator for either homework or exams.

Brightspace

You are expected to check Brightspace (brightspace.stonybrook.edu) regularly throughout the course to access course material, read announcements and view grades. Make sure your notifications are properly set so you receive information in a timely manner (more info below).

Gradescope

You are expected to use Gradescope to upload your completed paper homework each week and you'll access your graded exams through this program. Look for an email invitation to create a login on your **Stony Brook** email account at the end of Week 2 of the semester. *There is no cost to access Gradescope*. More information on how to use Gradescope will be provided on Brightspace.

How We Will Communicate

Regular, professional, and respectful communication is essential. Review the **Online Communication Guidelines** carefully and ask if you have questions.

To make sure you are receiving all communications in this course:

- Check Brightspace regularly for newly posted material.
- Set Brightspace notifications to be alerted via email of updates.
- Email responses are generally sent within 6 hours although replies to emails sent outside of the normal business day may take 12-48 hours.
- Your Stony Brook University email must be used for all University-related communications. *Include course name and section in subject.*
- All instructor correspondence will be sent to your SB email account. To log in to Stony Brook Google Mail, go to http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud and sign in with your NetID and password.

How to Succeed in this Course

Expect to spend 2-5 hours/week on average for homework and exam preparation.

- Attend each lecture and recitation
- Check Brightspace and your SBU email regularly
- Keep track of all due dates and plan ahead!
- Complete all graded assignments on time
- Work through problems more than once until you can complete them without the use of notes, help videos, etc.
- Complete review material in advance of review sessions

I'm happy to answer questions you have about the material or to discuss any concerns that you have about the course. If you are struggling to understand a topic, it will be more productive to ask for clarification *before* looking at external sites or trying to find a relevant YouTube video.

There are multiple university offices and help desks that are available to assist you with everything from advising, tutoring, accessibility, online-specific support, and much more.

Besides recitation, you can also get homework help from the Math Learning Center. This is a free service.

Part 2: Grading, Attendance and Late Work Policies

Assessment and Grading

Letter Grades:

Course grades are determined based on the breakdown of the class's weighted average (see weights below) and your mastery of the material. There are no predetermined cutoffs for course grades – see below for *minimum* threshold cutoffs. A cutoff may be lowered to adjust for exam difficulty.

Minimum Thresholds:

A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 63-66, F 0-62

Individual exams are not assigned letter grades, but statistics will be posted so you know how you did compared to others in the course.

Extra credit opportunities are **NOT** an option to compensate for low exam scores and no extra credit will be given on an individual basis.

Weights:

Activity/Assignment	Percentage	Due Date
Paper Homework	20%	Fridays 11:59pm*
Exam #1	25%	See Curriculum
Exam #2	25%	See Curriculum
Final Exam	30%	See Curriculum
Total	**100%**	

***** exceptions may occur

Exam Format:

Midterms are taken during lecture. The final exam is held during final examination week. (see Brightspace for dates/times)

See Part 5 of the syllabus if you require accommodations.

Exams are closed book and short answer with partial credit given where appropriate. You may NOT use a calculator during exams. Full work must be shown to receive full credit – little to no credit is given for a correct answer without proper substantiation. In addition to computational and application problems, be prepared to explain a concept in 1-2 sentences.

Make-up exams will not be given under any circumstances. See below for more information on makeup policy.

See Undergraduate Grading System for additional information regarding GPNC, Withdrawal Policies, Incompletes

Homework

Homework will be assigned weekly via Gradescope (see above). Each homework assignment must be submitted by Friday 11:59pm ET through Gradescope, NO exceptions – see Makeup Policy below).

Makeup Policy

Paper homework will not be accepted late under ANY circumstances. At the end of the semester, the two (2) lowest scores will automatically be dropped to offset the occasional unforeseen circumstances.

Considering missing an exam?
Exams are NOT offered at an alternate time. If you encounter a documentable unforeseeable and unpreventable circumstance, contact me **prior to** the exam start time, providing proper documentation. Missing a midterm is NOT recommended unless it's absolutely necessary as it puts an undue amount of weight on the final exam for your course letter grade. I'll discuss your situation with you and advise you in the moment. Missing an exam without having made other arrangements will result in a grade of zero for the exam.

If a midterm is missed, at the end of the semester, your final exam score will serve as the missed midterm score. If the absence is not excused, your score will be zero.

If the final exam is missed, an Incomplete MAY be given as the course grade at my discretion and you must make arrangements with me to take the final. *[see Course Policies* below for more info on taking an Incomplete.]

Part 3: Course Schedule

The curriculum contains topics that will be covered in the course, pacing of topics as well as **exam dates** and University deadlines. The Curriculum is posted on Brightspace in the *General Info* module. Unforeseen events may cause changes to the schedule.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend every lecture plus report for examinations and submit major graded coursework as scheduled. If you are unable to attend class(es), report for any exams or complete major graded coursework as scheduled due to extenuating circumstances, contact me as soon as possible. You may be requested to provide documentation to support their absence and/or may be referred to the Student Support Team for assistance.

Part 4: University and Course Policies

University Policies

Student Accessibility Support Center Statement

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, Stony Brook Union Suite 107, (631) 632-6748, or at sasc@stonybrook.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Once approved, **you must schedule to take each exam with SASC proctors**.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and the Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website:

https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/programs/fire-safety/emergency-evacuation/evacuation-guide-disabilities and search Fire Safety and Evacuation and Disabilities.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Professions, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please

refer to the academic judiciary website
at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

You must pursue your academic goals honestly, honorably and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. *In doing these things, you risk losing scholarships, financial aid, and the ability to graduate with honors.*

Note: when it appears that collaboration between students has occurred, **both** students will be reported therefore make every attempt to keep your own work out of view of others.

Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

Course Policies

Understand When You May Drop This Course:

If you need to drop or withdraw from the course, it is your responsibility to be aware of the tuition liability deadlines listed on the registrar's Academic Calendar. Before making the decision to drop/withdraw you may want to contact me and/or refer to the University's policies: Undergraduate Course Load and Course Withdrawal Policy

Incomplete Policy:

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. Circumstances must be documented and significant enough to merit an incomplete. If you need to request an incomplete for this course, contact me for approval as far in advance as possible. You should also read the University's policies that apply to you: Undergraduate Bulletin

Course Materials and Copyright Statement:

Course material accessed from Brightspace, Zoom, Echo 360, VoiceThread, etc. is for the exclusive use of students who are currently enrolled in the course. Content from these systems cannot be reused or distributed without written permission of the instructor and/or the copyright holder. Duplication of materials protected by copyright, without permission of the copyright holder is a violation of the Federal copyright law, as well as a violation of Stony Brook's Academic Integrity.