

Updated 07/18/2023



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

Linear Algebra

Math 2318.015

Peter Blaskiewicz

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is a Face-to-Face course.

Course Description:

Introduces and provides models for application of the concepts of vector algebra. Topics include finite dimensional vector spaces and their geometric significance; representing and solving systems of linear equations using multiple methods, including Gaussian elimination and matrix inversion; matrices; determinants; linear transformations; quadratic forms; eigenvalues and eigenvectors; and applications in science and engineering.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Successful completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, MATH 2414 (Calculus II)

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

MyMathLab (MML) will be used extensively for posting course notes, assignments, grades, testing, and other communications. Students are expected to check their *MML* and MCC email accounts often.

You will need MyMathLab access that lasts at least through the first full week of December. An 18-week plan would be sufficient; purchasing it directly from Pearson at the MyMathLab website would be the least expensive way to go.

Please do not, under any circumstances, come to class if you are even slightly sick or have any symptoms that make you think you might possibly be sick, no matter what type of illness. Let me know, and I will make arrangements for you to be able to get the material that is being covered on the day that you are out due to illness.

I will be available for individual Zoom chat sessions / ‘office hour’ by arrangement, especially if you cannot come to one of the regular class sessions. I request that you first watch the video over the missed class, so that we are not reinventing the wheel. The best way to arrange a Zoom meeting outside my regular office hour is by emailing me with a suggestion of a time or two that would work for you; if you call me, a voice message would go to my email box anyway.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Peter Blaskiewicz

MCC E-mail: pblaskiewicz@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: (254) 299-8869

Office Location: MATH 213

Office/Teacher Conference Hours:

MW 9:45-10:45 a.m.; TTh 1:30-2:30 p.m.; other times by arrangement

(Office Zoom: <https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/2542998869> by prior email arrangement)

Required Text & Materials:

Required: MyMathLab website access for the book named below.

(Note: The entire textbook is available electronically inside MyMathLab.)

A graphing calculator. The TI-84 or TI-89 or TI N-Spire are the models of choice for this course

Optional: *Linear Algebra and its applications* (6th edition) by David C. Lay (2021 Pearson)

ISBN: 978-0-13-585125-8

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Lecture (face-to-face classroom meetings), with student participation in example problems; lecture preparation available through e-text and publisher videos posted in MyMathLab; homework submitted online through MyMathLab; tests and a final exam in MyMathLab with proctoring, or else with pencil and paper.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Be able to solve systems of linear equations using multiple methods, including Gaussian elimination and matrix inversion.
- Be able to carry out matrix operations, including inverses and determinants.
- Demonstrate understanding of the concepts of vector space and subspace.
- Demonstrate understanding of linear independence, span, and basis.
- Be able to determine eigenvalues and eigenvectors and solve problems involving eigenvalues.
- Apply principles of matrix algebra to linear transformations.
- Demonstrate application of inner products and associated norms.

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as of the course census date as outlined in the course syllabus, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or may be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Course Outline or Schedule:

The schedule is subject to change. Should a change become necessary, students will be notified about changes verbally, during class. In the event unforeseen circumstances prevent a class from occurring as scheduled, either make-up lecture material will be posted in Brightspace or the calendar schedule will be adjusted and announced. If something on the school's end or the publisher's end prevents a test from taking place as scheduled, the test window will be moved forward to the next available day.

Linear Algebra

Math 2318.015

Week (Dates)	Section	Topic
1 (Aug 21-27)	1.1 – 1.4	Systems of Linear Equations; Row Reduction and Echelon Form
2 (Aug 28-Sept 3)	1.5, 1.7	Vector and Matrix Equations; Linear Independence
3 (Sept 4-10)	1.8 - 1.9; 2.1	Linear Transformations; Matrix Operations
4 (Sept 11-17)	2.2-2.3, 2.8- 2.9	Test 1 (Chapter 1) ; Inverse of a Matrix; Characteristics of Invertible Matrices
5 (Sept 18-24)	2.3; 3.1 - 3.2	Subspaces; Dimension and Rank; Determinants
6 (Sept 25-Oct 1)	3.3; 4.1	Cramer's Rule; Vector Spaces; Subspaces
7 (Oct 2-8)	4.2 - 4.3	Null Spaces, Column Spaces, Linear Transformations; Test 2 (Chapters 2-3)
8 (Oct 9-15)	4.4 - 4.6	Linearly Independent Sets; Bases; Coordinate Systems
9 (Oct 16-22)	4.7 – 4.9	The Dimension of a Vector Space; Rank; Change of Base; Markov Chains; Test 3 (Chapter 4)
10 (Oct 23-29)	5.1 – 5.2	Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues; Characteristic Equations
11 (Oct 30-Nov 5)	5.3 - 5.5	Diagonalization; Eigenvectors and Linear Transformations; Complex Eigenvalues
12 (Nov 6-12)	5.6	Applications to Differential Equations; Test 4 (Chapter 5)
13 (Nov 13-19)	6.1 - 6.4	Inner Product, Length, and Orthogonality; Orthogonal Sets; Orthogonal Projections; The Gram-Schmidt Process
14 (Nov 20-26)	7.1-7.2	Diagonalization of Symmetric Matrices; Quadratic Forms
15 (Nov 27-Dec 3)		Review for Final Exam
16 (Dec 6)		Final Exam -- cumulative

Course Grading Information:

Your course grade will be based on homework submitted in MyMathLab, work in class, chapter tests, and a cumulative exam. The relative weights of each of these factors is as follows:

Homework (online at www.mymathlab.com)	15%
Class participation and class problems	5%
Tests 4 @ 15% (projected; if other, the weights will total 60%)	60%
Final Exam (Wednesday, Dec. 6; earlier for graduation candidates)	20%

We will be covering chapters 1 - 7 of the text, theory with selected applications. Each test will be over one or two chapters; some of them may possibly be part take-home tests.

The final exam will be cumulative.

The letter grade received in this course will be based on the customary 90-80-70-60 scale.

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

Homework over a unit (one or two chapters) is due the day of the test over those chapters. Since one of the primary purposes of the homework is to prepare you for the test, late homework will be penalized 2% per day of the credit on the problems submitted late. (The penalty will not be applied to any problems in a set that are submitted on time, but only to problems in the set that are submitted late.)

If you have to miss one test for one of the reasons given in MCC's General Catalog, and you have provided a documented excuse for doing so, the exam will also count as your make-up test for that unit. If it is necessary for you to miss more than one test, you should discuss the situation with me. Unexcused absences from tests will not be made up.

If you are absent from 25% (eight) of the scheduled class meetings by the deadline for student-initiated withdrawals (October 23, 2023), you will be withdrawn from the class. If this limit is reached after that date, you will be kept on the roll, and the grade that you earn for the semester is the grade you will receive.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to be courteous and respectful of their classmates and of instructors at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, the following.

For face-to-face meetings:

- Masking and social distancing are not required in our classroom at the start of the semester. I reserve the right to change this at my discretion if I believe the situation warrants. In any case, be respectful of the personal space of others
- If you are ill or have any symptoms of **any** illness (not limited to Covid), do not come to school.
- Arrive in the classroom on time; be as unobtrusive as possible if tardy.
- Silence or turn off cell phones and other communication devices during all regular class periods. (During tests, these devices should not be present at all. If you access your phone during a test, you are automatically finished with your test and must turn it in immediately.)
- Save private conversations with other students for before/after class lectures.
- Do not bring children to class nor leave them unattended on campus. To do so is contrary to school policy.
- Do not use excessive amounts of fragrance. Doing so is grounds for being required to leave.
- You may not share calculators on a test.

For Zoom meetings, if we have any:

- Familiarize yourself with Zoom's features
- Please do participate in the class meetings. It's fine to have your mic on and ready for interaction, but mute yourself if the dog or children or other background noise would disrupt us.

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- Please use your webcam if you have one. Let me, as well as your fellow classmates, know who is in this course with us. But be mindful of your surroundings when your webcam is on. If necessary or desirable, use a non-distracting virtual background; Zoom provides that option.
 - Dress appropriately for class.
 - Once the lecture gets going, stick to the topic at hand, just as you would for a face-to-face lecture class. Avoid doing other tasks, checking email, being on the phone, or the like.
 - Do not use coarse or foul or offensive language, nor offensive or questionable imagery. Violation of this would be grounds for disciplinary action, including (but not limited to) being dropped from the course.
- Remember that the session is being recorded.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

The Center for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as “a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.” Individual faculty members determine their class policies and behavioral expectations for students. Students who commit violations of academic integrity should expect serious consequences. For further information about student responsibilities and rights, please consult the McLennan website and your Highlander Student Guide.

For more information, see <https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity>

Collaboration on out-of-class assignments is encouraged, but at no time should work belonging to one student be in the possession of another student. Likewise, students are not to engage in cheating in any form during or in preparation for tests or the final exam. All students involved in a cheating incident, whether in providing or receiving assistance, will receive grades of 0 for that assignment, be reported to Student Development, and find their names placed in the MCC database for cheating incidents. If there is a second incident, all students involved will be dropped from the course with grades of F and listed as repeat offenders in the database.

MCC Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students, and each instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course, including online and hybrid courses. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

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Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences.

Updated 07/18/2023



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu 2542998122 Room
319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the acting Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a

confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>. Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>).

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg. Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to

<https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html>

to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at

https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teachingandlearning/FacultyandStaffCommons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are

expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.