

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics
Math 310 (Section 002) – Linear Algebra (3 credit hours)
Spring 2025

Instructor: Dr Larson

Office: 4106 Harris Hall

Email Address: clarson@vcu.edu

Web page: mathlum.github.io and Canvas for grades.

Classroom and Meeting: 2101 Harris Hall, 2:00-3:15 TTh

Office Hours: 11:00-12:30 TTh

Prerequisite: Math 141 (with a minimum grade of C)

Text: *Introduction to Linear Algebra*, **5th** Edition, by Gilbert Strang. (Wellesley-Cambridge Press, ISBN-10: 1733146652). **Note:** there is a newer edition available---but we are using the **5th** edition (as its still in print, cheaper, and more used copies are available).

Bulletin Description: Systems of linear equations, vector spaces, linear dependence, bases, dimensions, linear mappings, matrices, determinants, quadratic forms, orthogonal reduction to diagonal form, eigenvalues and geometric applications.

Learning Goals: Chps. 1-7, Topics will include: Systems of linear equations, vector spaces, linear dependence, bases, dimensions, matrices, determinants, reduction to diagonal form, eigenvalues and geometric applications and, in particular, the Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) of a general rectangular matrix.

Course Schedule: This course is based on a set of daily instructor-produced worksheets. We will do one of these in class every class day. It is generally impossible to finish these completely without in-class help and discussion. Tests are based these daily classroom worksheets and assigned homework. The pace will not be predetermined (but will depend on how things go in class from day to day).

Expectations:

- You are expected to attend class, complete homework, and ask questions during class or office hours.
- Communicating mathematics is integral to the creation and transmission of mathematics. You should give significant thought as to how to explain your homework solutions to the class.
- I encourage you to work with others on homework problems, however, any assignments to be turned in must be written up on your own. If you work with others, you must write who you worked with on your assignment.
- Please write neatly on all assignments to be graded; exceptionally messy work may not be graded.
- Only selected homework problems will be graded; other problems will be graded for completion.
- **There are no make-ups on in-class assignments.** I will drop your two lowest in-class assignments, assuming that you couldn't come to class for excusable reasons.
- Make up tests will be considered under exceptional circumstances: if you miss a test and want to be considered for a make-up, you *must* contact me immediately.

Tests and Determination of Grades:

There will be 2 equally weighted tests. Here is the *tentative* schedule:

Test #1, Thurs., Mar. 6

Test #2, Thurs., May 1, 12:30-3:20

- The tests are closed-book and closed-notes.
- The tests will be based *on* the in-class assignments and assigned homework.
- Use of calculators or other computing technology is not allowed on the tests.
- Tests are written under the assumption that you are studying the material at least 6 hours per week outside of class.

Your final average will be computed as follows:

Test 1, 2: 25% each

Homework: 20%

In-class assignments: 30%

Grade Scale: The 10-point scale: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, etc.

Important Dates to Know:

- Last day to withdraw is Friday, March 28
- Classes end on Tuesday, April 29, Dec. 6

VCU Syllabus Information:

Students should visit go.vcu.edu/syllabus and review all syllabus statement information. The full university syllabus statement includes information on safety, registration, the VCU Honor Code, student conduct, withdrawal and more.

VCU Libraries:

Use [VCU Libraries](#) to find and access library resources, spaces, technology and services that support and enhance all learning opportunities at the university.