

Michigan State University  
MTH 309: Linear Algebra I, Section 004  
Department of Mathematics  
Spring 2016

**Instructor Information:**

*Instructor:* Nicholas Sedlmayr

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*Office Hours:* Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM,  
or by appointment

**Course Web Page:** [Under "Teaching"](#)

**Homework:** Homework sets will be posted on the course website regularly, so make sure to check back for any new assignments. All homework should be clearly and fully explained, indicating your reasoning at each step. Homework will be collected at the beginning of class the day it is due. The lowest two scores will not count towards the final mark. Late work will not be accepted except in exceptional circumstances.

**Class Time and Location:** MWF, 10:20 AM - 11:10 AM, 2205 Engineering

**Textbook:** Although it is not required, you may want to follow along with a book of your choice. A common choice is *Linear Algebra with Applications*, 8th edition or newer, by Steven J. Leon. We will be covering most of the material from chapters 1 through 6, though in a different order. The book provides additional details, topics, and practice exercises for the class and will be a useful resource for future classes and beyond. It is recommended to take a look at several different textbooks and pick one which fits you best.

**Calculator:** Calculators will not be necessary but may be used during class, with the exception that **no calculators will be allowed during exams**. Calculators on cell phones are disallowed.

**Course Content:** The topics of this course include matrices, vector spaces, inner products, orthogonality, linear transformations, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, and applications of these. If time permits, additional topics may be included.

**Exams:** Dates and times are below. The dates for Exams 1 and 2 are tentative, while the date for the final exam is fixed.

- Exam 1: January 29, 2016 (Friday), in-class
- Exam 2: March 21, 2016 (Monday), in-class
- Final Exam: May 4, 2016 (Wednesday), 10:00 PM - 12:00 PM, 2205 Engineering

**Time Conflicts for Exams:** If you have a time conflict with the regularly scheduled exam due to a university excused absence, you will be permitted to take an alternate exam. **Contact your instructor as soon as you become aware of the conflict!**

**Grading:** The course grade will be based on two midterm exams (10% each), a cumulative final exam (50%), and a homework score (30%). The grading scale is the following:

Grade	X%
4.0	$100 > X \geq 90$
3.5	$90 > X \geq 85$
3.0	$85 > X \geq 79$
2.5	$79 > X \geq 71$
2.0	$71 > X \geq 63$
1.5	$63 > X \geq 55$
1.0	$55 > X \geq 50$
0	$50 > X \geq 0$

**Attendance, Participation, and Excused Absences:** Students are expected to attend each lecture, to be active in class discussion and activities, and to complete the assignments given by your instructor.

**Academic Honesty:** All assignments, exams, quizzes, projects, and exercises completed by students for this class should be the product of the personal efforts of the individual(s) whose name(s) appear on the corresponding assignment. Cheating or plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Any potential cheating case will be thoroughly investigated, and could potentially lead to failure in the course or even to expulsion from the university. It's not worth it, so don't do it. For more detailed information, visit the Ombud's website for academic integrity: <https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/academic-integrity/>.

**Accommodations Due to Disability:** If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with documentation of a disability from RCPD. More information about this can be found at

<https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/services>