Matrix Algebra Syllabus

MATH 3323 On Demand and Recordings

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Prerequisites
Calculus II (MATH 1312). This is a mathematical maturity requirement.

Course Objectives
This course is concerned with matrices and vectors. In one setting, matrices and vectors merely serve as efficient devices for storing the coefficients and solutions of systems of linear equations. However, the solutions of many such systems are hard to even describe without the language of vector spaces, where matrices serve as functions turning vectors into other vectors. We will then spend most of our time examining vector space significantly various vector spaces we can naturally assign to a matrix. In this setting, eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a matrix arise naturally, and we end the course examining these. Upon completing this course, you will be able to solve and analyze systems of linear equations. You will be able to find and describe the various vector spaces associated with a matrix, and you will prepare to study more abstract vector spaces. You will compute a matrix’s eigenvalues and eigenvectors and know what is suitable. You can do all this equally well with the symbolic/numerical description of matrices and vectors as arrays of numbers and the geometrical description of matrices and vectors using the powerful organizing concept of dimension, even in dimensions higher than three.

Textbook
Introduction to Linear Algebra, 5th ed., Johnson, Riess, Arnold, Chapters 1, 3, and 4. We will skip some sections, as announced in class. The textbook is required for the complete semester.

Strongly Recommended Textbook
A different perspective of the material helps the learning process. The following book is highly recommended:
Understanding Linear Algebra by Austin 2022 Ed. is freely available; see the following link. The full course comprises chapters 1, 2, 4, and 6.

Platforms
We will use two different completely free platforms, all accessible from Blackboard

- Piazza: where we post announcements, hold discussions, and make video requests.
- WeBWorK: where you submit all your gradable work, and we compile grades.

Required Reading: Read each section we cover in class before and after. Skim the section before class, even if you do not understand it fully, to know what we’ll be doing in class. Read it more carefully after class to clarify and fill in the details you missed in class.

Warning: Sometimes, we will not “cover” all the material from a section in class but instead focus on a particular aspect of the section. In such cases, I will point out in class which other parts of the section I expect you to read on your own.

Grading
Grades are communicated to students promptly. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of and compile them. Your semester grade will be based on homework assignments, quizzes, class participation, one partial exam, and a final exam. \((a + 4b + c + d = 100)\)

- \(a\%\) Homework
- \(b\%\) Exams (three partial exams and one final exam)
• c% Quizzes  
• d% Class participation (includes active participation in class and completion of any graded assignment)

Quizzes, Homework, and Participation  Homework problems will be assigned regularly. Quizzes consist of problems derived from the homework and readings. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. You must do your homework before the due date. You will only learn the material by doing it yourself, not watching others do it. Mathematics is not a spectator’s game.

Partial Exams There will be two to three exams, with exact dates announced in class. Makeup exams can be given only in extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances and with advance notice.

Final The final comprehensive exam will be on Tuesday, December 12th

Technology Requirements

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account works and you can access the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser. You will need access to a computer/laptop, scanner, webcam, and microphone. You must download or update the software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and can access all course parts.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please get in touch with the UTEP Help Desk, as they are explicitly trained in assisting with the technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Policies

Class Recordings: The use of recordings will give you access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on if you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstances. Using such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP following FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

COVID-19 Precautions: Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you feel unwell, please let me know as soon as possible so we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, report your results to covidadvice@utep.edu so that the Dean of Student Office can support you and help communicate with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can care for Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Academic dishonesty: It is UTEP’s policy, and mine, for all suspected cases or acts of alleged academic dishonesty to be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for investigation and appropriate disposition. See Section II.1.2.2 of the Handbook of Operating Procedures.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE As we know, sometimes, communication online can be challenging. Given the lack of body language and immediate feedback, it’s possible to miscommunicate or misunderstand what our classmates mean. Therefore, please keep these etiquette guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

• Always consider the audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of others’ ideas.

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Respect and courtesy must always be provided to classmates and the instructor. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.

When reacting to someone else’s message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.

Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings should be private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professors only. Please do not copy and paste documents to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Be reminded that some materials are subject to copyright, and violations are prosecuted, so be cautious about what you share!

Attendance: You are strongly encouraged to reply to your classmates’ comments and questions and request videos of problems and topics of interest. Students who have demonstrated a lack of effort will be dropped from the course with a grade of “F”. You are responsible for discovering any assignment that must be made up if you get behind. My goal is for class meetings and activities to complement, rather than echo, the textbook and, thus, for every class to be worth watching.

Drop date: The deadline for student-initiated drops with a W is November 3rd. After this date, you can only drop with the Dean’s approval, which is granted only under extenuating circumstances. I hope everyone will complete the course successfully, but if you are having doubts about your progress, I will be happy to discuss your standing in the class to help you decide whether or not to drop. You are only allowed three enrollments in this course, and students enrolled after Fall 2007 are only allowed six withdrawals in their entire academic career, so please exercise the drop option judiciously.

Courtesy: We all must show courtesy to each other and the class during class. Please arrive at class on time (or let me know when you have to be late and why); do not engage in side conversations when one person (me or another student) is talking to the whole class; turn off your cell phone (or, for emergencies, at least set it not to ring out loud), and do not engage in phone, email, or text conversations during class.

Disabilities: If you have, or suspect you have, a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, cass@utep.edu, or Union East, room 106. You are responsible for presenting to me any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

Exceptional circumstances: If you anticipate the possibility of missing large portions of class time due to exceptional circumstances such as military service and training or childbirth, please let me know as soon as possible.

Course Resources: UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- Technology Resources
- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or person if on campus.
- Academic Resources
  - UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources, including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks, plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
  - University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help, and explore other writing resources.
  - Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
  - History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor, and explore other history resources.
  - RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial, Fact Sheet, and Quick-Start Guide.
- Individual Resources
  - Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
  - Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
  - Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides various counseling services, including individual, couples, and group sessions, as well as career and disability assessments.

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