

# MA 316 – Linear Algebra II

## Spring 2018; Section 101

**Instructor.** Dr. Armin Straub

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**Course website.** <http://math316.straub.link>

**Office.** MSPB 313

**Office phone.** (251) 460-7262 (please use e-mail whenever possible)

**Office hours.** MW, 9:00am-noon, or by appointment

**Class schedule.** MWF, 8:00-8:55am, in MSPB 410

**Overview.** This course is a continuation of MA 237 (Linear Algebra). Topics include inner product spaces, the spectral theorem for symmetric operators, complex vector spaces, and the Jordan canonical form.

**Learning objectives.** Students will develop a good conceptual and computational understanding of linear algebra. Further, students are expected to be able to state definitions precisely, prove some small theorems, follow the proofs of bigger theorems, and apply the aforementioned in a variety of real world situations.

**Textbook.** *Linear Algebra with Applications*, by Jeffrey Holt (W. H. Freeman, 2013)

**Course format.** Web-enhanced

**Pre-requisite.** C or better in MA 237 (Linear Algebra)

## Grading

**Exams.** There will be two in-class midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam. Notes, books, calculators or computers are not allowed during any of the exams.

Our **tentative** exam schedule is:

- Midterm Exam 1: Friday, February 16
- Midterm Exam 2: Wednesday, March 21
- Final Exam: Monday, April 30 — 8:00-10:00am

**Homework.** Each week homework will be posted to our course website. Homework is submitted online on the course website, and you have an unlimited number of attempts (a 15% penalty applies if homework is submitted after the posted due date). Only the best score is used for your grade. Most problems have a random component (which allows you to continue practicing throughout the semester without putting your scores at risk).

(You are the first to test, and hopefully benefit from, this system, which I have written myself over the break. Please report any issues to make it as useful as possible!)

**Grades.** Your grade will be based on the total sum of your scores on the midterm exams, homework, and the final exam.

- Midterm Exams: 50% in total
- Homework: 20%
- Final Exam: 30%

The resulting numerical score is then translated to your semester grade as follows:

[90, 100]: A,    [80, 90): B,    [70, 80): C,    [60, 70): D,    [0, 60): F.

**Bonuses.** You can earn bonus points by finding mathematical typos in the lecture notes, or by reporting mistakes in the homework system. Each bonus point is worth 1% towards a midterm exam.

**Make-up policy.** There will be no make-ups for missed midterm exams. If an exam is missed and appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor's note) is presented in a timely manner, then the corresponding exam score will be replaced with the final exam score. Otherwise, the score for the missed exam will be recorded as zero.

**Online grades.** Grades will be posted to USAonline. Please check your grades after each exam at <https://ecampus.southalabama.edu> and report any discrepancies within two weeks.

**Dropping.** The final drop date is Friday, April 6. Please speak with me (and/or your advisor) before making a final decision to drop. Ideally, talk to me as soon as you are getting behind, so I can help you complete the course successfully.

## Course organization

**Online material.** This syllabus as well as relevant information and material for this course can be found at our course website. In particular, homework and sketches of each lecture will be posted there.

**Attendance.** Attendance of all lectures is mandatory and roll will be taken. You are responsible for finding out what you missed on days when you were unable to attend.

Let  $X$  be the number of times you miss class without excuse throughout the semester.

- If  $X \leq 3$ , then your lowest exam score is replaced with the final exam (if beneficial).
- If  $X > 6$ , then your overall semester grade will be decreased by a full letter grade.

Students are expected to be on time in class. Frequent late arrivals of a student to the classroom will be considered a disruption and a penalty may be applied in this circumstance.

**Cell phones and other electronic devices.** The use of cell phones and other electronic devices, such as laptops, is not acceptable during lecture and is reserved for emergencies.

**Dates of interest.**

- Monday, January 15: Martin Luther King Holiday
- Monday–Friday, March 26–30: Spring Break
- Friday, April 6: Last day to drop
- Friday, April 27: Last day of classes

**Changes.** Not all classes progress at the same rate. Thus course requirements and policies might have to be modified as circumstances dictate. You will be given notice if the course policies need to be changed.

**Additional Academic Course Policies.** Information on Student Disability Services, Academic Disruption Policy and Class Demeanor, Student Academic Conduct Policy, Operational Disruptions, and other university policies are posted on USAonline.

**Welcome to Linear Algebra II!**

...and please ask anytime if you have questions.