

MATH 122.C – Applied Linear Algebra / Fall 2021

- Textbook:** Intro to Linear Algebra, by L.W. Johnson, R.D. Riess, J.T. Arnold, 5th Ed.
- Class Meets:** MWF: 2:20 – 3:10 (Votey 207)
- Instructor:** Dr. Taras I. Lakoba, Innovation Hall, Room E436
(802) 656-2610, tlakoba@uvm.edu, <https://tlakoba.w3.uvm.edu>
- Office Hours:** M: 12:30–1:30; T: 3:30–4:30; W: 11:30–12:30; and by appointment.
See [this link](#) at the above website for more information.
- Important deadlines:** Add/Drop & Pass/no Pass: Sept. 13 (M); Last day to withdraw: Nov. 1 (M);
Last class: Dec. 9 (Th); Recesses: Sept. 6 (M), Oct. 8 (F), Nov. 22–25 (M–F).

Course contents:

Verbal description: Echelon and reduced echelon forms, consistent linear systems, matrix operations, linear (in)dependence, (non)singular matrices, matrix inverses; properties of vector space R^n , subspaces, bases, coordinates, and dimension, orthogonal bases, linear transformations, least-squares solutions; eigenvalue problems, determinants, eigenvectors and eigenspaces, similarity and diagonalization, singular value decomposition. By Section: 1.1–1.3, 1.5–1.7, 1.8 (if time permits), 1.9; 3.1–3.5, 3.7, 3.8; 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7.

Homework:

Homework is posted on the [course webpage](#), which you can access from the [instructor's webpage listed above](#). Homework for any given section is considered assigned on the day that section has been covered.

The purpose of the homework is to help you master the techniques covered in class. As such, **homework problems will be substantially based on examples and material presented in class. Therefore, you should study your notes before you attempt the homework, and mimic your solutions on the examples in the notes** and the indicated examples from the book. Please watch a 15-minute video on the course webpage explaining how I expect you to work on homework problems. See the instructor for help **as soon as** you find out that you are having difficulty with the homework.

Homework will not be graded; however, both [quizzes](#) and [tests](#) will be based on the homework problems.

Projects:

There will be five projects (to be done outside of lecture time), whose primary purpose will be to show you a connection between the concepts learned in class and some real-life applications. Some of the projects will involve Matlab; however, prior experience with this software is not required.

Tests and Quizzes:

(a) [In-class quizzes](#), sometimes unannounced (see below), will be given *approximately* once a week. They will be based on the homework problems that have been due at least one day ago. You are encouraged to ask which section's homework will be covered in the next quiz.

The [main purpose](#) of the quizzes is to help you monitor your understanding of the material. If you receive a low grade on a quiz, it is a flag that you need to review the corresponding material. A **structured, 3-step process of such a review** is posted on the course website. If you receive a couple of low quiz grades in a row, see the instructor for help as soon as possible.

I will announce when the next quiz will be and what it will be on *only after someone asks me about that in class*. *Example:* I plan to give a quiz on October 1. If someone asks me in class on October 1 or during a previous class when the next quiz would be, I would answer: "On October 1". If no one asks, I will still give a quiz on that day. I will not answer questions about the next quiz's date and content if asked outside of class, unless that question has already been asked in class. This will be done to encourage your (i) initiative asking questions in class and (ii) attendance.

(b) [Pre- and post-lecture quizzes](#), which are counted as *extra credit*, will be given via Blackboard before and after every lecture starting with the class after the Add/Drop deadline (i.e., on Sept. 15, Wednesday). See rubric 'Extra credit' on page 2 for more information. Please note that **these are the only assignments that will require use of Blackboard** in this course. All regular (i.e., non-extra credit) assignments will be given and collected in person.

(c) There will be 3 (three) [midterm tests](#) during the semester. Their dates will be announced in class at least a week before each test. In terms of material covered, midterms 1, 2, and 3 will be given after we cover Sections 3.1, 3.7, and 4.5, respectively. *See page 3 of this document for information related to their scheduling.*

Make-up exams will be given to those students who have documented excused absence.

(d) The [final exam](#) will be on Monday, Dec. 13 from 4:00 pm to 7:15 pm in Votey 207.

Academic integrity:

When working on any quizzes and tests, you are **not allowed to use outside help in any form**.

When working on Projects, you are allowed to work with no more than one partner on any given Project. (You may change partners, or work without a partner, on different Projects.) See the ‘**My Policy on Projects**’ on the course webpage. You and your partner may use class notes, textbook, and materials posted on the course webpage. If you decide to use materials found online (which you will *never really need* and hence are *discouraged* from using), you must *conspicuously reference the URL* where the material is found.

Violations of academic integrity on *any assignment* will be dealt with as described in the link ‘**Sanctions for academic integrity violations**’, found below this Syllabus. **See also** the rubric ‘Prohibition of sharing course materials’ in the Generic Syllabus (posted next to this one).

Grading policy: Each midterm test will be worth 13% of the final grade. All regular quizzes combined will be worth 20% of the final grade. All projects combined will be worth 20% of the final grade. The final exam will be worth 21% of the final grade. Extra credit may be earned, as explained below.

Note: I do **NOT** drop your lowest grade. Thus, **ALL** the grades that you earn during the semester will contribute to your final grade, as detailed above.

Grading scheme: I do not curve exams and quizzes. Instead, when issuing final grades, I slightly adjust the grading brackets. This will work as follows. The threshold between **A–** and **A** will be set at X , where $92.00 < X \leq 93.00$ will be adjusted based on my subjective criteria. The freedom of choosing this X *within the above range* is my equivalent of other instructors’ curving exam grades.

Once a value of X is selected, letter grades will be put in correspondence with the following brackets for the numeric grade, which is computed as described in rubric Grading policy:

D–	$[X - 30 - 3.33, X - 30)$;	D	$[X - 30, X - 30 + 3.34)$;	D+	$[X - 30 + 3.34, X - 20 - 3.33)$;
C–	$[X - 20 - 3.33, X - 20)$;	C	$[X - 20, X - 20 + 3.34)$;	C+	$[X - 20 + 3.34, X - 10 - 3.33)$;
B–	$[X - 10 - 3.33, X - 10)$;	B	$[X - 10, X - 10 + 3.34)$;	B+	$[X - 10 + 3.34, X - 3.33)$;
A–	$[X - 3.33, X)$;	A	$[X, X + 5.00)$;	A+	$\geq X + 5.00$.

Note that these brackets are *strict*. This means that if your grade doesn’t make the next bracket even by 0.01, that is it — it doesn’t make it. This is what brackets, and thresholds in general, are for.

Extra credit: (No penalty will be given if you choose not to do any of the extra credit assignments.)

- **1a (easy):** Pre-lecture quizzes will be posted on Blackboard by 9 a.m. on each lecture’s day, starting by the end of the first week of classes. The earned scores for them — 0.01% per one correct answer added to your overall final grade — will begin being recorded after the Add/Drop deadline. These quizzes’s purpose is to make you *browse* through the lecture notes¹ of the upcoming class, so that you have some idea of what will be covered. The pre-lecture quizzes will consist of a small number of simple questions verifying whether you have browsed the material. Unlike in-class quizzes, pre-lecture ones *will be announced electronically* on Blackboard.

- **1b (easy):** Post-lecture quizzes will be posted on Blackboard after most lectures and available for 24 hours after the class. They will check your general understanding of the covered material (there will be no difficult calculations). Unlike pre-lecture quizzes, some questions on post-lecture ones may be a little tricky and will require you to read the lecture notes carefully. Just for completing any one of these quizzes, you will be able to receive 0.01%, added to your overall final grade. If, in addition, you answer questions on the lecture material correctly, you will receive 0.01% per correct answer. Recall that **pre- and post-lecture quizzes are the only assignments that will require use of Blackboard** in this course.

- **2 (harder):** Extra credit problems will be occasionally posted on the Homework page (see rubric ‘Homework’ on the first page of this syllabus). They will be graded (on a coarse scale). Before you do a particular extra credit assignment, please review more detailed instructions found on the course website.

- I reserve the right, at my sole discretion, to increase the final grade of any student by one level (e.g., from B- to B) for a demonstrated achievement, some examples of which are: active and constructive class participation, regular and active attendance of office hours, excelling on the final exam, being the “most improved” student in terms of performance or attitude, etc. This provision, however, has been used *only in very rare and truly exceptional cases*.

Learning objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to recognize and independently work with the following concepts: Gaussian elimination and Reduced Echelon Form of a linear system; Linear (in)dependence of vectors; (Non-)singular matrices; Vector spaces and subspaces; Basis for a vector space; Linear transformations; Least-square solution of inconsistent linear systems; Eigenvalues and eigenvectors; Similarity transformation and Diagonalization of a matrix.

Page 2 of 3; please see next page for more information

¹Lecture notes are also posted on the aforementioned course webpage, around the middle.

Information about midterm exams in MATH 122

- All three midterms will be scheduled outside of class in the evening. The benefit of doing so for the instructor (and presumably for the students) is that this will save the class time and will allow a slower pace of the exposition of the material. The benefit for the students is that exams held outside of class can be scheduled for longer than 60 minutes.

Tentatively, the exams will be scheduled during the weeks of October 4, November 1, and November 29. The procedure described below supersedes the above dates (which, again, are *only approximate*).

- Scheduling an outside exam will work as follows. About 8–10 days before the exam, I will send an email to the class with the following content:

Class:

The preparation sheet for Test N has been posted on the course webpage.
I would like to schedule Test N within one of the following time slots:

`weekday 1, month/date, time block 1`
`weekday 2, month/date, time block 2.`

This test will be for **XX** minutes.

Please let me know what times within the above two slots you can NOT make. I will NOT be able to accommodate preferences, only hard “cannot”s.

Please let me know that by **deadline time** this upcoming **weekday, date**.²

If you can make any time within the above slots, you do not need to respond.

If you can NOT make any part of the above time, I will still extend an offer of individual accommodation to you. HOWEVER, I will extend such offers only to those students who have responded by the above deadline of **date**. If you miss the deadline, you’ll have to take the test at the times which I will select based on responses of the other students.

The students with ACCESS accommodation are to schedule a time with the EPC (<https://www.uvm.edu/academicsuccess/exam-proctoring-center>; epc@uvm.edu; 802-656-5767). Please make sure to let the EPC staff know that the base time for the exam is **XX** minutes.

- Soon after the deadline time mentioned above, I will select a time based on the responses that I have received. I will also send offers of individual accommodation as described above and will ask these respective students to respond within 24 hours. If I do not receive a response by then, the offer of individual accommodation WILL BE WITHDRAWN, and the non-responsive student will need to TAKE THE EXAM WITH THE OTHER STUDENTS.
- Information about the location of the exam will be sent soon after the exam is scheduled.

²Usually, I will allow 3 days for a response.