

Syllabus Supplement for Math 3260 sec. 51 (CRN: 84118)

Spring 2025

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Office Hours: M & W 11:10 am to 12:10 pm and other times by appointment (live or virtual)

Course Home Pagehttp://facultyweb.kennesaw.edu/lritter/Ritter3260_F2025.php

Course Description This is a three hour first course in Linear Algebra. An introduction to linear algebra and some of its classical and modern applications. Among topics to be included will be systems of linear equations, matrices, determinants of matrices and applications, vector spaces, and inner product spaces. Significant use of technology will be employed in performing matrix computations. We will meet for lecture three times weekly MWF 8:00 am to 8:50 am in D 120. Students are expected to attend all lectures and to keep up with course assignments.

Prerequisites: A grade of C or better in Math 1190 or (MATH 1179 & MATH 1189), or approval of the math department chair.

Required Course Materials: Text: *Linear Algebra I (Math 3260)* by Sean F. Ellermeyer & Lake Ritter. This text is open access and will be made available electronically at no cost to you. This text is still under construction, and you will be informed of periodic updates.

Calculator: A calculator capable of performing matrix arithmetic and operations is highly recommended (e.g. TI-83/84, TI-89, or TI-Nspire).

Learning Outcomes: Upon completing this course, students will be able to

1. Apply properties of matrices to solve systems of equations.
2. Analyze properties of matrices as linear operators.
3. Analyze properties of a vector space over real numbers, and apply them to solve problems involving bases, dimensions, orthogonality, and the Euclidean n -space.

4. Analyze properties of eigenvalues and eigenvectors, compute eigenvalues and eigenvectors, and use them in diagonalization problems and other applications.

Grading and Evaluation Your course grade will be the weighted average of your score on 4 semester exams, one comprehensive final exam, class participation, and in class quizzes. The grades will be weighted as follows:

Table 1: Grade Weights

Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 3	Exam 4	Participation	Quiz Avg.	Final
F 9/5	F 10/3	F 10/31	F 12/5	Daily	Weekly	M 12/15
15%	15%	15%	15%	5%	15%	20%

A = 90%–100%, B = 80%–89%, C = 70%–79%, D = 60%–69%, F = 0%–59%

Exams: We will have four mandatory semester exams, each worth 15% of the course grade. The exam dates are shown in the grade table 1 as well as the important dates table 2 near the end of this syllabus. Exams may include some portion on which calculator use is not allowed. Otherwise, you may wish to use a calculator with matrix operation functions. **Note that no device with internet access may substitute for a calculator.** Except in the case of an excused absence (see attendance and make-up policy), a missed exam will be assigned a grade of zero. We will have one comprehensive final during the time designated by the University. The final is 20% of the semester grade. The following two policies regarding the final exam apply:

1. If your course average prior to taking the final exam is $\geq 90\%$, you will be exempted from the final exam and will receive a grade of A in the course.
2. If it is to your advantage, your score on the final exam will replace the lowest **nonzero** semester exam grade.

Quizzes & Homework: This text is written with exercises embedded throughout the content narrative. You are expected to complete these exercises while reading the text. Each chapter includes additional

exercises which you are expected to complete. I will not collect the homework. However, on Fridays we will have a brief in-class quiz (roughly 10 minutes at the end of class). The quiz problems will come from the exercises in the text (either exactly or slightly modified). Calculator use will be allowed or disallowed on a quiz by quiz basis. At the end of the semester, the two lowest quiz grades will be discarded and the remaining will be averaged together to give the quiz grade for the semester. This quiz average is 15% of the semester grade. Make up quizzes will not be offered.

Participation: On some class days we will set aside time for you to work (individually or in small groups) doing math. Full credit for participation will be given for attending class and participating in this work. An unexcused absence will result in a participation grade of zero for that day. Excused absences will not count against your participation grade. Two participation grades will be dropped. The remaining will be averaged to give the participation grade for the semester.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Regular class attendance is critical to academic success. Hence I strongly encourage you to attend all classes and keep up with the exercises and course events. An unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero for any graded item missed that day. That said, I will excuse an absence if (1) I am informed as soon as possible (via email or voicemail), and (2) there is a good reason. Good reasons include (but are not limited to) your illness or the illness of someone who depends on you, an academic or University sports commitment, a legal obligation, or an unforeseen travel issue. Reasons that are not excusable include (but are not limited to) over sleeping, or working on a project for another class. **Attending late or leaving early, for the sole purpose of participating in a graded item, will not be permitted unless specifically authorized.**

Missing an Exam: All exams are mandatory. In order to be excused from an exam, you must notify me in advance (or as soon as circumstances allow), and provide documentation (e.g. doctor's note, order to appear, notification from a faculty adviser) of your reason for missing the exam if I ask for it. If you meet both of these criteria, I will allow your grade on the final exam to substitute for the missed exam. Make up exams will not be offered. **A grade of zero for an unexcused, missed exam is not subject to being replaced by the final exam grade. In other words, all exams should be taken if not excused.** Using the grade from the final exam to replace an excused, missed exam is independent of having the

final exam score replace your lowest test score. (That is, given appropriate circumstances, it may be that the grade on the final exam is counted more than twice.)

Academic Integrity Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimal one semester suspension requirement. Any form of cheating on an exam or quiz in this class will at minimum result in a grade of zero on the grade item. No grade dropping or replacement policy will apply to a zero grade that is associated with cheating.

Notice on Course Withdrawal: Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance (non-participation) does not constitute a withdrawal. The last day to withdraw without academic penalty is Friday October 31, 2025. If you do not withdraw and do not continue to participate in graded items such as exams, I will assign a letter grade of F. As per KSU policy, I will report your last day of class participation **My compliance with this policy may affect your financial aid.**

Midterm Grades: A midterm grade will be assigned by the midterm grade due date identified on the Spring 2025 academic calendar (Friday March 21, 2025). This midterm grade is for assessing mid-semester performance prior to the last day to withdraw without academic penalty. You may view your midterm grade in Owl Express. Note that only your final grade will be officially recorded on your academic transcript.

Students with Disabilities I will attempt to accommodate all students with special needs to the best of

my ability, but it is the responsibility of the student to make their needs known to me. Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the counselor working with disabilities at 470-578-7361 (Marietta) or 470-578-2666 (Kennesaw) as soon as possible to better assure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. (Additional contact information email: sds@kennesaw.edu and webpage: <http://studentsuccess.kennesaw.edu/sds/index.php>).

On Diversity and Inclusion: Kennesaw State University prides itself on offering a premiere, personalized educational experience for leadership and engagement within a diverse nation and world. This educational experience is achieved through recognition and appreciation of the differing backgrounds and experiences reflected within the University community. It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit.

Wellbeing at KSU: YOU MATTER at KSU, and your well-being is a priority to us. The transition to college is exciting, but it can cause students to experience stress and feel overwhelmed, leading to other issues. Through counseling, health education, addiction and recovery support, fitness and recreation activities, and access to basic needs, WellbeingKSU is here to help you do well and be well. kennesaw.edu/wellbeing

Cell Phone, Tablet, Laptop Policy: Use of laptops, cell phones, or tablets for non-class related activities is **not allowed during class**. Any student who must be repeatedly asked to refrain from texting or surfing the web will be invited to leave. **At no time will still or video photography be allowed during class.**

Copyright Notice: Items distributed in this class whether physical or electronic are the intellectual property of the creator and/or copyright holder. No such items are to be used for commercial purposes without the express consent of the creator or copyright holder.

Institutional Policies: For a complete list of KSU's institutional policies, please visit the Federal, BOR, & KSU Policies page.

Instructional Continuity Plan: Kennesaw State University (KSU) may decide to close campuses, operate on a delayed schedule, or transition to remote instruction for inclement weather or in case of emergency. The University will announce campus closures, delayed schedules, or remote instruction through KSU Alerts sent to your cell number on file and to your university email account. In addition, announcements will be posted on KSU's home page: www.kennesaw.edu Our class continuity plan includes:

1. Communication: Please check D2L Brightspace or e-mail for necessary instructions.
2. Virtual Classes: If in-person classes are not possible, we may transition to virtual classes using MS Teams.
3. Assignments and Assessments: Deadlines for assignments and assessments may be adjusted to accommodate the emergency situation.

We understand that emergencies create unique challenges. If you need additional support during an emergency, reach out via Brightspace or e-mail. The university also offers resources such as counseling and academic support, which can be accessed remotely.

Table 2: Important Dates

Aug. 18	First Day of Fall Classes	Sept. 1	Labor Day holiday (No classes)
Sept. 5	Exam 1	Oct. 3	Exam 2
Oct. 24	Midterm Grades Due	Oct. 31	Last Day to Drop w/ W
Oct. 31	Exam 3	Nov. 24–28	Fall Break (no classes)
Dec. 5	Exam 4	Dec. 8	Last Day of Fall Classes
Dec. 15	Final Exam	8:00 am to 10:00 am	in D 120