Linear Algebra (MATH 331) Syllabus

Instructor: Jessica Sklar (she/her/hers)  
Email: sklarjk@plu.edu  
Office: Morken 259

Course page: http://community.plu.edu/~sklarjk/331  
Class meeting time & place: MWF 11:15 am–12:20 pm, Morken 214  
Office hour scheduler: https://sklarjk.youcanbook.me/

Office hours: My office hours will usually be Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00–3:30 pm. All meetings are by appointment; please schedule your appointment at https://sklarjk.youcanbook.me/ at least 2 hours in advance. (If you wish to meet for me for half an hour instead of for just 15 minutes, you may sign up for two adjacent 15-minute appointments.) If you have conflicts at these times, please talk to me in person or email me to set up an appointment at an alternate time. Please officially cancel your appointment at https://sklarjk.youcanbook.me/ at least 2 hours before its starting time if it turns out that you will be unable to attend it.

Text: Linear Algebra and its Applications (5th ed.), by David Lay.

Course content (tentative): Sections 1.1–1.5, 1.7–1.9, 2.1–2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1–4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2.

Learning Outcomes

- Communication: Be able to read, interpret, write about, and talk about mathematics. (Practice & Demonstrate)
- Computation: Develop computational, algorithmic, and technological problem-solving fluency. (Practice & Demonstrate)
- Abstraction: Be able to work with abstract mathematical structures, and to generalize from the concrete to the abstract. (Practice & Demonstrate)
- Application: Be able to apply mathematical concepts to concrete situations. (Practice)
- Disciplinary Citizenship: Develop collaborative skills, independence, perseverance, and experience with open-ended inquiry. (Practice)

Class Attendance

Attendance is expected for this class. I hope that you will make it to class every day. If you cannot make it to class, you are responsible for learning the material that you missed on your own; I will not recreate lectures or portions of lectures during office hours.

Homework, Worksheets, and Quizzes

There will be roughly weekly homework assignments for this course; you will be able to find assignments on the course’s Homework webpage. I may end up modifying some assignments; any changes will be announced in class, and also sent to you in email. Homework will be due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, with a 10-minute grace period, approximately once a week. Homework that is submitted—electronically or in person—after 11:25 am will be considered late, and will not be accepted. Assignments may be LaTeXed and shared with me on Overleaf, emailed to me as a single PDF, or turned in as a single stapled packet; each assignment that is not LaTeXed should be completed in PENCIL and turned in as single stapled packet (or if you are unable to attend class that day, emailed to me as a single PDF). Some problems on each assignment will be selected to be graded for accuracy; you will also receive a completeness grade for each assignment. Please refer to the Guidelines for Homework and for Writing Mathematical Proofs for guidance in proof-writing.

There may also be worksheets and/or quizzes throughout the semester. I will announce these ahead of time, in class and via email. Each worksheet or quiz will be worth the equivalent of one homework assignment. Worksheets will be distributed out in class, and will be due either in class that day, or at the beginning of the next class.
With the exception of emergencies, late homework/worksheets will not be accepted and there will be no make-up quizzes. This means that if you must miss class, you are responsible for completing and turning in all necessary assignments before the missed class. Because I do not accept late work, I will drop the lowest grade of all of your homework/worksheet/quiz grades.

Exams
There will be two midterm exams during the semester; they are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 11 and Friday, April 17. Your (cumulative) final exam is 110 minutes long and takes place on Wednesday, May 20, from 11:00 am to 12:50 pm. **There will be no make-up exams.**

Course grade composition

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<tr>
<td>Homework/worksheets/quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Classroom Conduct
Learning to read, discuss, and present mathematics—or anything, for that matter—can be stressful. As such, it is imperative that everyone in the class feels welcome to make mistakes and for us all to be respectful of one another. Impatience, derogatory remarks, derogatory actions, offensive behavior, rude feedback, unhelpful feedback, or any type of discrimination will not be tolerated.

Student Support

The Center for Student Success
PLU is committed to overall well-being of its students. If you are struggling academically, emotionally, psychologically, etc., please know that The Center for Student Success serves as a campus-wide network of units dedicated to helping students succeed. The website is: [http://www.plu.edu/student-success](http://www.plu.edu/student-success). Students can find out about Academic Advising and Degree Planning, Tutoring and Assignment Help, Career and Vocation Planning, Personal Health and Wellness, Financial Services, and many affinity group connections. Students can make appointments with advising, the writing center, academic assistance, and many other forms of support. PLU has also established the Student Care Network (SCN) to work with students and partners for a successful academic, social, and emotional experience at PLU. Students, faculty and staff can submit a Care Form (available on the main page of the PLU website under EPass) if they have concerns (academic, emotional, physical or social) related to the well-being of a PLU student. The SCN will work with campus partners to support a culture of care and response for all community members. Please go to: [http://www.plu.edu/srr/student-care-network](http://www.plu.edu/srr/student-care-network) to learn more or to submit a report.

Mental Health Resources
As a student you may experience a range of mental health issues that can cause barriers to learning. These might include anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, strained relationships, feeling down, or loss of motivation. PLU’s Counseling Center is here to help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 253-535-7838, visiting [https://www.plu.edu/chws/](https://www.plu.edu/chws/), or emailing counseling@plu.edu. Help is always available. For urgent mental health support after business hours, including weekends and holidays, contact the Counseling Center Crisis Line at 253-535-7075.

Accommodations
Students with medically recognized and documented disabilities and who are in need of special accommodation should contact the Office of Accessibility and Accommodation (253-535-6392). If you need special accommodations, please schedule an appointment to meet with me, so we can discuss approved accommodations.
Academic Dishonesty

As stated in PLU’s Faculty Handbook, PLU’s expectation is that students will not cheat or plagiarize, and that they will not condone these behaviors or assist others who plagiarize. Academic misconduct not only jeopardizes the career of the individual student involved, but also undermines the scholastic achievements of all PLU students and attacks the mission of the institution. Academic honesty is especially relevant in the capstone course, as students are presented with a challenging task of writing individual research papers.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- submitting material that is not yours as part of your course performance (e.g., copying from another student’s work, or allowing another student to copy your work);

- helping another student to cheat.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing an idea or strategy that is significant in one’s own work as one’s own when it comes from someone else—for example, directly copying information from another work or website without citing is considered plagiarism. In written assignments and presentations, all sources used need to be properly cited.

All cases of cheating and plagiarizing will be dealt with as specified in the Student Code of Conduct, which can be found at http://www.plu.edu/srr/code-of-conduct/home. In particular, if I suspect cheating or plagiarism, it is my duty as your instructor to report it to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.