Department of Mathematics & Statistics
Concordia University

MAST 235
Linear Algebra and Applications II
Winter 2026

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When sending me and email, include "MAST 235" in the subject line.

Class Schedule: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:45AM - 1:00 PM.
Note: There will be a mid-term break from March 2 to March 8.

Office Hours: TBA.

Textbook: There is no mandatory textbook for this course. All the material will be posted in the lecture and class work files on the MAST 235 Moodle site.

For additional reading and practice, most of the topics covered in this course can be found in the following complementary texts:

Linear Algebra with Applications, by W. Keith Nicholson, Open Texts by Lyryx.
https://lyryx.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Nicholson-OpenLAWA-2018A.pdf

Linear Algebra, Theory and Applications, by Ward Cheney & David Kincaid. The book is very good but expensive. A second-hand book of any edition can be used.

Prerequisites: MATH 234 or equivalent.

Objectives: This course will focus on applications of the theory studied in Math 234 and its further development. There are two major concepts, on which this course is based: (*a*) ***Linear Systems & Operators***, and their applications such as Economic Models or Dynamical systems**,** and (*b*) ***Inner Product Spaces*** **a**nd ***Self Adjoint Operators***, leading to applications like Orthogonalization, Least Square solutions, and SVD diagonalization. The general objective of the course is to master your understanding and skills in these key concepts of Linear Algebra that will be critical for further Algebra courses in your curriculum.

Software: *MAPLE (version 17 or higher)* is mandatory for this course. The Waterloo's *Maplesoft* is making MAPLE ("Student's edition", quite sufficient for the course) available to Concordia students at a special price. In this course the software is only used as a computational *tool*, ***not* as an object of study** in itself.
All the tests, the final examination and the assignments are done using *MAPLE*.

Assignments: Assignments are given and submitted online through Moodle. Late assignments **will not** be accepted. Assignments contribute 15% to your final grade (see the grading schemes below). *W*orking regularly on the assignments is essential for success in this course.

Midterm Test: There will be **one midterm test**, written in class, during week 6 or 7. The exact date of the midterm, as well as the topics covered, will be announced at least two weeks in advance of the test. The midterm must be completed using a computer in the computer lab. It will contribute up to 30% toward your final grade (see the grading schemes below).

NOTE: It is the Department's policy that tests missed for any reason, **including illness,** cannot be made up. If you miss the midterm for any reason, the final exam will count for 85% of your final grade (see the Grading Scheme below).

Final Exam: The Final Examination will be 3 hour closed-book Maple examination. Access to resources such as lecture notes, class notes, and similar material is disabled

PLEASE NOTE: Students are responsible for finding out the date and time of the final exam once the schedule is posted by the Examination Office. Any conflicts or problems with the scheduling of the final exam must be reported directly to the Examination Office, **not** to your instructor. It is the Department's policy and the Examination Office's policy **that students are to be available until the end of the final exam period. Conflicts due to travel plans will not be accommodated.**

NOTE: There are no supplemental exams for this course.

Grading Scheme: The final grade will be based on the higher of (***a***) and (***b***) below:

(a) 15% for the assignments.
30% for the midterm test
55% for the final examination.

(b) 15% for the assignments
85% for the final examination.

If the grading scheme for this course includes graded assignments, a reasonable and representative subset of each assignment may be graded. Students will not be told in advance which subset of the assigned problems will be marked and should therefore attempt all assigned problems.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course outline and course content should this be necessary for academic or other reasons.

CONTENTS

Week	Lectures TOPICS	Sub-Topics considered	Complementary Reading
1	LINEAR SYSTEMS: NETWORKS	• Systems of Linear Equations, Homogeneous: an ***Overview*** • Network Problems	**Sections KN: 1.3, 1.4**
2	LINEAR SYSTEMS: ECONOMIC MODELS	• Economic Models o Closed Leontieff Model o Open Leontieff Model	**Sections KN: 2.8**
3	*DETERMINANTS* PROPERTIES & APPLICATIONS	• Determinants: overview and basic properties • Applications: o Polynomial Interpolation Problem o Vandermonde matrix	**Sections KN: 3.1, 3.2**
4	EIGENTHEORY AND DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS	• Diagonalization and powers of a matrix • Application: Dynamical Systems o Systems with Real eigenvalues o The Predator-Prey simulation o Systems with Complex eigenvalues	**Sections KN:2.9, 3.1, 3.3 Appendix A**
5	INNER PRODUCT SPACES	• The concept of inner product space over real and complex numbers o Definition o Properties • The norm in an inner product space o The Cauchy-Schwartz Inequality o The Triangle Inequality o The Pythagorean Theorem	**Sections KN: 8.7, 10.1**
6	ORTHOGONAL PROJECTION	• Orthogonality of vectors • Orthogonal Projection • Angle • Orthogonal complements	**Sections KN: 5.3, 8.1**
7	LEAST SQUARE SOLUTIONS	• Normal Equations and the Least Squares solutions to an inconsistent system.	**Sections KN: 5.6**
8	ORTHOGONALIZATION	• The Gram-Schmidt Process • Gram Matrix	**Sections KN: 8.1, 10.2**
9	UNITARY MATRICES QUADRATIC FORMS	• Orthonormal bases • Orthogonal & Unitary matrices • Quadratic Forms	**Sections KN: 8.1, 8.2**
10	SELF-ADJOINT OPERATORS SPECTRAL THEOREM	• Hermitian matrices, Self-adjoint mappings • Eigenvalues of Hermitian and symmetric matrices • Spectral Theorem • Cayley-Hamilton Theorem	**Sections KN: 8.7, 8.2**
11	SVD FACTORIZTION	• Singular Values and Vectors • Singular Value Decomposition	**Sections KN: 8.6**
12	**REVIEW**	**Review classes**	

Student Services
You may wish to access the many services available to you as a Concordia student. An overview of these resources can be found here: https://www.concordia.ca/students/services.html

Academic Integrity and the Academic Code of Conduct
This course is governed by Concordia University's policies on Academic Integrity and the Academic Code of Conduct as set forth in the Undergraduate Calendar and the Graduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with these policies and conduct themselves accordingly. "Concordia University has several resources available to students to better understand and uphold academic integrity. Concordia's website on academic integrity can be found at the following address, which also includes links to each Faculty and the School of Graduate Studies: https://www.concordia.ca/conduct/academic-integrity.html" *[Undergraduate Calendar, Sec 17.10.2]*

Behaviour
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