

# M221-2 - Introduction to Linear Algebra

Spring 2015

1:10pm MWF      Wilson 1-121

**Instructor:** Dr. Al Parker, EPS304, [parker@math.montana.edu](mailto:parker@math.montana.edu), 994-5145.

**Office Hours:** 12:00-1:00pm on Mondays and Wednesdays in EPS304; 2:10-3:00pm on Fridays in Wilson 1-112; other times by appointment.

**Course Webpage:** <http://www.math.montana.edu/~parker/courses/M221>

**Text:** Gilbert Strang. Introduction to Linear Algebra, 4th ed. Wellesley Cambridge Press. 2009.

**Prerequisite:** Calculus II (M166 or M172)

**Topics:** M221 provides an introduction to matrix algebra, the solution of systems of linear equations, determinants, vector operations, vector spaces, eigenvalues and eigenvectors. Modeling and applications are stressed throughout. We will be covering chapters 1-6 and 8 in the text. You will use the software package MATLAB to help with some of the more computationally demanding aspects of the course.

**Grading** is based on about 400 total points:

- Exam 1: Friday, February 20: 100 points (about 25%)
- Exam 2: Wednesday, April 1 (APRIL FOOLS DAY! seriously): 100 points (about 25%)
- Comprehensive Final Exam: Friday, May 8, 8:00–9:50am: 100 points (about 25%)
- About 10 Quizzes: at about 10 points each for a total of about 100 points (about 25%)

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

F 0-59, D 60-64, D+ 65-69, C 70-74, C+ 75-79, B 80-84, B+ 85-89, A 90-100.

**Homeworks:** Problems and/or reading assignments will be posted on the webpage after almost every class. Your solutions to the homework assignments will not be collected; instead, check your answers with the solutions available on the webpage. To learn this material (and to do well on exams and quizzes), you should master all of the homework problems! To learn is to practice!

**Quizzes:** Either in-class or take-home quizzes will be assigned about once a week. Take-home quizzes will be posted on the webpage. On the due date, your solutions to take-home quizzes will be collected at the beginning of class. Make-up quizzes will not be given.

**Exams:** All exams are in-class, worked individually, and are “closed book”. Make-up exams will not be given.

**Help:** You are encouraged to provide help to and/or receive help from your fellow classmates when studying, working on homeworks, or working on take-home quizzes. This is an excellent way to learn! Each student must hand in an independent write-up of solutions to take-home quizzes.

Walk-in tutoring is available for M221 students in the Math Learning Center at Wilson 1-112 Monday through Thursday from 9:00am-8:00pm; and on Friday from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Your ID is required to get in. I will be there from 2:10-3:00pm on Fridays.

Feel free to come see me, you pay for class time *and* for my office hours. My office hours are times I am guaranteed to be in, but let me know if some other appointment would be better for you. I will always try to make time to answer your questions.

**Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability for which you will be requesting an accommodation, contact me and Disabled Student Services as soon as possible.