Instructor:  David Singman

Office and hours:  Science and Tech I, Room 235, T and Th 1:30-3:00pm, and by appointment.

Email and Telephone:  dsingman@gmu.edu, (703)-993-1476 You can leave a voice-mail message if I am unavailable, but it is best to instead send me an email message as I check my email seven days a week.

Web site:  A web site has been set up for the course. You are responsible for checking the homepage of the site for updates each day. On it I will post announcements relevant to the course such as information on weekly quizzes, copies of quizzes and tests once they are given as well as complete solution sets, lists of practice problems, this syllabus, MATLAB help, etc. You can find it by going to http://math.gmu.edu where you will see a link to “course home pages” on the left center of the page. After you click on it you will find a link to our course webpage.

Texts:  Finite Mathematics & Its Applications, Tenth Edition, by Goldstein, Schneider and Siegel, Prentice Hall. We also will cover the supplementary notes Matlab, Data fitting, and Modeling, which you should purchase from the GMU bookstore.

Course:  In this course we study matrices and some of their applications. This includes linear equations and straight lines (Chapter 1); the arithmetic of matrices, solving linear systems of equations using the Gauss-Jordan method, Leontieff input-output model in economics (Chapter 2); Markov processes (Chapter 8); data fitting by means of polynomial interpolation and least squares (supplementary notes); difference equations and financial mathematics (Chapter 11).

Calculators:  The text makes frequent reference to the TI-82 and TI-83 calculators. You do not need such a sophisticated calculator for this course. For the most part, you may ignore the parts of the text that deal specifically with these particular calculators. Calculators will be allowed on exams, and any basic four function calculator will be sufficient.

Homework and MATLAB:  We will have some graded homework problems in which we make use of computer software called MATLAB. I will show you how to work with MATLAB in class and I will post some additional material on the website. MATLAB is particularly useful for performing matrix computations. It is available on the PC’s on campus as well as through your MASON account (should you wish to do your homework at home). The system requires your PatriotPass. If you have not activated it, do so by going here:  https://thanatos.gmu.edu:8443/passwordchange/index.jsp

Practice Problems:  A list of practice problems you should do can be found on the website for the course. You should do each of them as the associated section is covered. Your work on these problems will not be collected, however, it is very important that you work each
problem yourself. Mathematics can only be learned by working through problems, not by reading someone else’s solutions. Quizzes and tests will consist of questions similar in spirit to the practice problems and to the problems worked in class.

**Getting Help:** The moment you have difficulty with the course, you should try to get some help. Don’t leave it until a few days before your tests. The following are a few places to go for help.

- **Primary Source for Help:** You should view me as your primary resource for mathematics help. If you have difficulty on any of the Practice Problems, with the lecture material or the textbook presentation, feel free to get in touch with me. I will always be available during regular office hours, but you can also communicate with me by e-mail to either ask math questions or to arrange to meet with me at some other time.

- **Math Tutoring Center:** This is a free tutoring service located in room 344 of the Johnson Center. It operates on a walk-in basis. Their website is [http://math.gmu.edu/tutorcenter.htm](http://math.gmu.edu/tutorcenter.htm).

- **Office of Disability Services:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703/993-2474. Their website is [http://ods.gmu.edu/](http://ods.gmu.edu/). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Grading:** homework assignments (10%); weekly quizzes (15%); three class tests (15% each); a cumulative final exam (30%). I will not give any makeups for quizzes or class tests. Instead, for quizzes I will throw out the worst two grades, and for tests I am willing to replace your worst class test grade with the final exam and count the final in its place for 45% instead of 30% (provided the final exam result is better than your worst test grade).

**Class tests:** The Class Tests will be held in class on the following days:
- Test 1: Tuesday February 21
- Test 2: Thursday March 29
- Test 3: Thursday April 26

**Final exam:** It will be a cumulative exam, held on **Tuesday, May 15**, 10:30am-1:15pm.

**Scale:**
- A-, A, A+: 90-100; B-, B, B+: 80-89; C, C+: 70-79; D 60-69; F 0-59.

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- A-, A+ 90 - 100; B-, B, B+: 80 - 89; C, C+: 70 - 79; D 60 - 69; F 0 - 59

**University Honor Code:** It is expected that each student will conduct him or herself within the guidelines of the Honor Code. Among other things, this means that any kind of cheating on exams or tests is strictly forbidden, and will be dealt with very severely.