Math 458, Numerical Methods, Fall 2022

**Exterior Course Website:** [http://www.stevenheilman.org/~heilman/458f22.html](http://www.stevenheilman.org/~heilman/458f22.html)

**Prerequisite:** 1 from (MATH 225 or MATH 245)

**Course Content:** Rounding errors in digital computation; solution of linear algebraic systems; Newton’s method for nonlinear systems; matrix eigenvalues; polynomial approximation; numerical integration; numerical solution of ordinary differential equations.

**Lecture Meeting Time/Location:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 12PM-1250PM WPH B28

**Instructor:** Steven Heilman, stevenmheilman@gmail.com

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 9AM-11AM, on zoom [link posted on blackboard]

**TA:** ..., ...@usc.edu

**TA Office Hours:** Kap 263 (the Math Center)

**Discussion Session Meeting Time/Location:**

- 39680, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10AM-1050AM, CPA 205
- 39681, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11AM-1150AM, CPA 151

**Textbook:** There is no required textbook. The first course resource is a freely available book: Numerical Computing with Matlab by Cleve Moler (the inventor of Matlab), available online at: [https://www.mathworks.com/moler/chapters.html](https://www.mathworks.com/moler/chapters.html). Some other textbooks that we will follow are: Numerical Analysis: Mathematics of Scientific Computing, Kincaid and Cheney

Numerical Mathematics and Computing, Cheney and Kincaid

**Software:** Matlab is freely available as a download for USC students. You should download and install this software on your personal computer. Instructions for downloading and installing this software can be found here: [https://software.usc.edu/matlab/](https://software.usc.edu/matlab/). If you have not done so already, you should create a Mathworks account, associated to your USC email address ([https://www.mathworks.com/login](https://www.mathworks.com/login)). Once you have installed Matlab, you should then install the NCM package (available at the bottom of this page: [https://www.mathworks.com/moler/chapters.html](https://www.mathworks.com/moler/chapters.html)). Once the NCM package is installed, you can access some of its features by just typing `ncmgui` in the Matlab command line.

**Exam 1:** Monday, September 26, 12PM-1250PM, THH 114

**Exam 2:** Friday, November 4, 12PM-1250PM, THH 114

**Final Exam:** TBD, Location TBD

**Extra Credit Project:** There will be an optional extra credit project, where students will create a computer program that plays a game (such as connect four or chess) in Matlab, and the top performers of a tournament will be awarded around 1% to 3% extra credit points for the course. The project would be due in the last week of class, and the “finals” of the tournament would occur in class during this time as well. Students can work in groups of up to three, and if a team wins some amount of extra credit, that credit will be split evenly among the participants. Also, copying any code from any online resource will result in automatic disqualification. Since I will be running the finals on a Microsoft Surface Tablet (without much memory or processing power), you are not
allowed to use any functions from any extra Matlab toolboxes, other than those functions in the most basic installation of Matlab. More details are TBD.

**Email Policy:**

- My email address for this course is stevenheilman@gmail.com.
- It is your responsibility to make sure you are receiving emails from stevenheilman@gmail.com, and they are not being sent to your spam folder.
- Do NOT email me with questions that can be answered from this document.

**Exam Procedures:** Students must bring their USCID cards to the midterms and to the final exam. Phones must be turned off. Cheating on an exam results in a score of zero on that exam. Exams can be regraded at most 15 days after the date of the exam. This policy extends to homeworks as well. All students are expected to be familiar with the USC Student Conduct Code. (See also here.)

**Student Conduct:** Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity [http://equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu) or to the Department of Public Safety [http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us](http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us). This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community - such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member - can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men [http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/) provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

**Accessibility Services:** If you are registered with accessibility services, I would be happy to discuss this at the beginning of the course. Any student requesting accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Accessibility Services and Programs (OSAS) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from OSAS. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. OSAS is located in 301 STU and is open 8:30am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

https://osas.usc.edu  
213-740-0776 (phone)  
213-740-6948 (TDD only)  
213-740-8216 (fax)  
OSASFrontDesk@usc.edu

**Other Resources:** An introduction to mathematical arguments

**Homework Policy:**

- Homeworks are due roughly every week, at **10AM Thursdays**, i.e. at the beginning of the first discussion session on Thursdays.
• Homeworks are submitted in blackboard, under the "Assignments" tab. You are allowed unlimited submission "attempts" for an assignment, but only the last submission will be graded. To avoid internet issues, I recommend making your first submission of an assignment well in advance of the deadline. (Note that phone tethering can also give you an internet connection to a computer.)

• Homeworks should be submitted as single PDF documents. One way to create a PDF document from paper homework assignments is the freely available Adobe Scan App.

• Late homework is not accepted.

• If you still want to turn in late homework, then the number of minutes late, divided by ten, will be deducted from the score. (The time estimate is not guaranteed to be accurate.)

• Do not submit homework via email.

• The two lowest homework scores will be dropped. This policy is meant to account for illnesses, emergencies, dropped internet connections, etc.

• You may not use the internet to try to find answers to homework problems.

• A random subset of the homework problems will be graded each week. However, it is strongly recommended that you try to complete the entire homework assignment.

• All homework assignments must be written by you, i.e. you cannot copy someone else’s solution verbatim. However, collaboration on homeworks is allowed and encouraged.

• Homework solutions will be posted a few days after the homework is turned in.

Grading Policy:

• The final course grade is weighted as the larger of the following two schemes:

  • Scheme 1: class participation (3%), homework (11%), quizzes (11%), the first midterm (20%), the second midterm (20%), and the final (35%).

  • Scheme 2: class participation (3%), homework (11%), quizzes (11%), the largest midterm grade (30%), and the final (45%).

• The grade for the semester will be curved. However, I do not "curve down" since anyone who exceeds my expectations in the class by showing A-level performance on the exams and homeworks will receive an A for the class.

• If you cannot attend one of the exams, you must notify me within the first two weeks of the start of the quarter. Later requests for rescheduling will most likely be denied.

• Class participation is not the same as attendance. I will never explicitly take attendance, but I will notice if someone is frequently absent. Things that increase your class participation grade include: asking good questions, paying attention in class, showing up on time or early to class, etc. Things that decrease your class participation grade include: excessive talking or disruptions during class, frequent absences, excessive texting/smartphone usage in class, frequent tardiness, etc.
• You must take the final exam to pass the course.

**Tentative Schedule:** (This schedule may change slightly during the course.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 5: No class</td>
<td>Sep 6</td>
<td>Sep 7: 4.1, Review of Linear Algebra</td>
<td>Sep 8: Homework 3 due</td>
<td>Sep 9: 4.1, Multiplying Matrices</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 12: 4.2, Gaussian Elimination, Cholesky Decomposition</td>
<td>Sep 13</td>
<td>Sep 14: 4.4, Matrix Norms, Errors</td>
<td>Sep 15: Homework 4 due</td>
<td>Sep 16: 4.8, Bounding Errors</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 19: 5.1, Eigenvalues, Power Method</td>
<td>Sep 20</td>
<td>Sep 21: 5.3, QR Decomposition, Least Squares</td>
<td>Sep 22: Homework 5 due</td>
<td>Sep 23: 5.4 SVD, Pseudoinverse</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sep 26: Exam 1</td>
<td>Sep 27</td>
<td>Sep 28: 5.4, Dimension Reduction, Random SVD</td>
<td>Sep 29: No homework due</td>
<td>Sep 30: 6.1, Polynomial Interpolation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 7: 8.8, Shooting Methods</td>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Nov 9: 8.9, Finite Differences</td>
<td>Nov 10: Homework 9 due</td>
<td>Nov 11: 8.10, Collocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 14: 9.1 PDEs</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Nov 16: 9.2 PDEs</td>
<td>Nov 17: Homework 10</td>
<td>Nov 18: 9.3, PDEs</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 21: Leeway</td>
<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Nov 23: No class</td>
<td>Nov 24: No class</td>
<td>Nov 25: No class</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nov 28: Leeway</td>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Nov 30: Review of Course</td>
<td>Dec 1: Homework 11 due</td>
<td>Dec 2: Review of Course</td>
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**Advice on succeeding in a math class:**

• Review the relevant course material **before** you come to lecture. Consider reviewing course material a week or two before the semester starts.
• When reading mathematics, use a pencil and paper to sketch the calculations that are performed by the author.

• Come to class with questions, so you can get more out of the lecture. Also, finish your homework at least **two days** before it is due, to alleviate deadline stress.

• Write a rough draft and a separate final draft for your homework. This procedure will help you catch mistakes. Also, I would very much recommend **typesetting** your homework. Learning LaTeX is a very important skill to have for doing mathematics. Here is a template .tex file if you want to get started typesetting.

• If you are having difficulty with the material or a particular homework problem, review Polya’s **Problem Solving Strategies**, and come to office hours.