SYLLABUS — UTK – M257 – Matrix Algebra Spring 2014, Jochen Denzler, MWF 10:10–11:00, Ayres 124

Textbook (and contents info): I do not force you to buy a textbook, but recommend you get *Shifrin-Adams; Linear Algebra - A Geometric Approach.* — The lecture will reasonably closely follow the book, but I will hand out my own homework on sheets with self-explaining assignments rather than saying 'page x, pblm y,z,...'

In view of the additions in the 2nd chapter of this book, I recommend the newer, 2nd edition of 2011, but the older, 1st edition would also work if you don't mind a deviation. — The 2nd edition has swapped sections in chapter 5 as compared to the 1st edition, and I intend to follow the ordering of the older edition.

We will not be able to cover the 7th chapter of the book, but if you keep it for later, you'll find 7.1 (Jordan Canonical Form) useful reference for some material covered in 453 and used frequently in Math, and 7.3 (Matrix Exponentials) a useful reference for material usually covered in 431.

Grade: We'll have 3 in-class and one final exam, and homework. They count towards the grade as follows: each in-class exam with weight 1, the final with weight 2, the hwk with weight either 1 or 2, whichever gives the better average for each individual. This formula may change in case our class does not get a paper grader.

Homework: Each homework problem will be graded with either 0, 1 or 2 points, unless otherwise specified. This puts the responsibility on you to hand in decent solutions and do calculations correctly. You will typically not be able to find solutions in the back of the book, because I will make up my own problems. However you will find very similar problems (with different numbers) in the book. You can use them as needed; I will not assign gazillions of cloned problems for training ad nauseam; this should leave you time to think and breathe. But be aware that you must do some independent thinking.

Sample solutions for hwk will be made available. Make sure you compare these web-solutions with your own. This may give you additional insight even if you handed in a correct solution.

Class Attendance: I do not take attendence formally; however you are responsible for the class contents and should therefore strive at regular attendance.

Office Hours are posted on my website http://www.math.utk.edu/~denzler/. Right now they are MWF 2:30-3:30 and TR 2-3, but this may change depending on need. You are also welcome to request an appointment at other times or drop in. I accomodate drop-ins, whenever feasible, even though I cannot always guarantee immediate availability. My office is Ayres 317; my office phone is 974-5325. Email is denzler@math.utk.edu, but I may read it only once or twice a day.

Course website: http://www.math.utk.edu/~denzler/M257-Fa2014 I am posting some material here, and it is publicly accessible and meant that way. I do NOT use UT-online Blackboard system in this course, except for administrative purposes like e-mail to class.