Welcome to Math 141 Section 506 – Spring 2012

Instructor:	Dr. Jean Marie Linhart	**Phone:**	(979) 845-3261 (Math Department)
Office:	Blocker 636	**Email:**	jmlinhart@math.tamu.edu
Office hours:	Wednesday 2-4 pm in BLOC 628. Overflow in BLOC 624.		
	Office hours may vary, changes are posted on the course website.		
Class time:	TuTh 8 – 9:15 am	**Location:**	HELD 100
Websites:	Instructor: http://www.math.tamu.edu/~jmlinhart		
	Course: http://www.math.tamu.edu/~jmlinhart/m141		
	WebAssign: https://www.webassign.net/tamu/login.html		
	eLearning: http://elearning.tamu.edu/		

Updates to office hours, exam dates, etc. are on the course website above.

Resource Materials: The textbook and electronic access were paid for by your course fees. They are available in WebAssign: https://www.webassign.net/tamu/login.html.

WARNING: WebAssign does not play nice with the MacIntosh Safari browser. The recommended browser for WebAssign is Firefox, which is available free from http://www.mozilla.org.

Required Calculator: You will also need a TI-83, TI-84, (regular, plus or silver editions) or TI-Nspire (non-CAS) calculator for Math 141.

Catalog Title and Description: (CREDIT 3.0) *Business Mathematics I.* Linear equations and applications, systems of linear equations, matrix algebra and applications, linear programming (graphical method), probability and applications, statistics, finance. High school algebra I and II and geometry. Credit will not be given for more than one of MATH 141 and MATH 166.

Grading Policy: Grades will be calculated according to the following percentages:

Homework	20%	A = 90-102%	S = 70-102%
Average of three exams	57%	B = 80-89%	U = below 70%
Comprehensive Final Exam	25%	C = 70-79%	
		D = 60-69%	
Total	102%	F = below 60%	

Exam grades are not curved. The determination of the final grade will be **at least** as generous as the standard scale, above.

Any questions regarding grading/scoring must be made within one week of the return of the exam or no change in the grade will be made.

Because of privacy rights, I cannot discuss grades over email or telephone.

Exams: There will be three in-class exams and a comprehensive final. Calculators are allowed on exams, unless otherwise stated. Exams are not curved.

Tentative Exam Schedule	**Final Exam**
Exam 1: Thursday, Feb. 9	Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Exam 2: Thursday, Mar. 8	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Exam 3: Thursday, April 12	in our regular classroom, HELD 100

If a change needs to be made to the exam schedule, an announcement will be made in class, sent out by email, and updated on my website.

The Learning Process: Mathematics is not a spectator sport. You learn through practice and participation. Plan on budgeting at least 6 hours a week for work outside of the classroom.

- Read the book, actively participate in class, think, ask questions.
- Work homework problems, ask questions.
- Take an exam, reflect on what you were able to do or not, and why, ask questions.

Expectations:

- I expect you to come to class, arrive on time, and stay to the end of class.
- I expect you to put effort into concentrating on class while you are present.
- I expect you to silence your electronic devices and put them away before class so that you will (a) better concentrate on what we are doing and (b) not distract your neighbors.
- I expect you to do your homework and other work as needed outside of class.
- I expect you will have questions. Please ask them!

Course Learning Outcomes: The main course learning outcome is to get you comfortable with the foundational mathematical skills and mathematical reasoning that are useful in business applications and in real life. Students will learn to:

- Formulate linear models for business applications.
- Understand matrices and their applications, including solving systems of linear equations.
- Construct linear programming problems for various applications and solve using graphical techniques.
- Understand and apply the rules of sets and Venn diagrams.
- Understand the principles of probability and counting and apply these concepts to a variety of problems.
- Identify types of random variables and calculate probabilities and statistics for random variables.
- Apply the concepts of finance to real-world situations, such as simple and compound interest, mortgages, annuities and credit cards.

Homework: The online homework which is part of your course grade is due weekly. Due dates are kept on `http://www.webassign.net/tamu/login.html`. You have a week to complete the assignments need and many resources available to you to insure that you can maximize this part of your grade.

A thorough understanding of the homework is essential for doing well in the course. It is to your advantage to do the supplementary homework from your textbook and posted on your course website, to insure your understanding of the material and to maximize your grade.

Working with others on the homework is encouraged. There are some guidelines on my website for working together.

The Classroom: The classroom is a learning environment for everyone. Be courteous of your neighbors and avoid distracting behavior including talking, playing with your cell phone, and texting.

Your fellow students and your instructor are your teammates for mastering this material. Treat everyone with the respect, courtesy and inclusiveness you want for yourself. We are all in this together; find some study partners, make some friends. Asking and answering questions with classmates is a powerful learning tool.

Course topics and schedule: This is posted online at
`http://www.math.tamu.edu/courses/math141/141weekly_schedule.pdf`.

Communication: Email is the preferred way to leave messages for me. I usually respond within 24-48 hours. When writing to me, please include your full name and course. There are email writing tips on my website.

You can call the main Math department office and leave a message for me, but I will probably see and reply to an email more quickly.

Course information is sent out by email. Check your university email daily.

Make-ups and Excused Absences: Please try to avoid putting yourself in a position of needing a make-up. Make-ups are inconvenient for everybody. Make-ups are only given if written evidence of an official University excused absence is provided in a timely manner. (See *University Student Rules.*, `http://student-rules.tamu.edu/`). Let me know what is going on in writing, in advance, if possible. If there is an accident or an emergency that precludes advance notice, email me immediately and get me documentation of the emergency in writing as soon as you can. If I don't hear from you within 2 working days of the absence, I will not allow a make-up. It is your responsibility to schedule a make-up; please get this done as soon as possible.

The "explanatory statement for absence from class" form is not sufficient written documentation for an excused absence. If you are ill or injured, you need to provide me with a note from a health care professional excusing you from work or school. You may go to your own doctor or to the Student Health Center in Beutel and obtain such a note.

The note should provide me with all information I need to confirm that your absence is excused, i.e., phone numbers and/or email addresses.

Scholastic Dishonesty: You are encouraged to work together on the homework problems, but do not copy another student's work. Quizzes and exams are to be performed solo. If you are unsure of what this means with regards to scholastic dishonesty, guidelines for working together are available on my website, and I will be happy to answer questions about this.

Always abide by the Aggie Code of Honor.

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AGGIE HONOR CODE

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do"

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When you accepted admission to Texas A&M University you assumed a commitment to uphold the Honor Code. For additional information please visit `http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/`.

Extra Help: The Mathematics Department offers two **Week-in-Review sessions**, one of which I will be leading. The Week-in-Review sessions go over the material covered for class the previous week and example problems are worked. My session will be interactive. The Week in Review schedule can be found at `http://www.math.tamu.edu/courses/weekinreview.html`

Help sessions begin the second week of class and have drop in hours where you can get help on your homework and other problems. The schedule for help sessions will be on our course website, and it is also available here: `http://www.math.tamu.edu/courses/helpsessions.html`

Office hours: I'm generally available for a few minutes before and after class to answer questions. Please also ask questions in class, though questions during class should usually be restricted to the material under discussion. Please come by my office hours. This is time set aside to work with you, and it is one of my favorite parts of my job.

Course assistant office hours: We will have a course assistant who will attend class with you and also hold office hours where you can get your questions answered. Details will be posted on our course website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall room B118 or call 845-1637. `http://disability.tamu.edu`.

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