Math 265: Linear Algebra

Spring 2014

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00-11:00.

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the field of linear algebra. In the first part of the course, we will cover basic ideas of linear equations and systems of linear equations, and will learn general methods of solving them. Most of the course will be devoted to exploring ideas raised by these solutions, and to examining some of the practical applications of these ideas.

Required Text

Thomas S. Shores, *Applied Linear Algebra and Matrix Analysis*, Springer.

Teaching Philosophy and Course Expectations

New learning occurs most effectively when it is based on what students *already know*, when students actually '*do*' real mathematics, and when they become aware of *how* they learn, not just *what* they learn (Donovan, 2005). Learning is a deliberate and conscious decision, one that involves breaking established neural patterns and creating new ones. To best facilitate growth, my expectations are for you to:

- Apply yourself. This course will take a lot of time and energy. If you have high learning expectations, that is what you will achieve. Success in this course will require significant effort (several hours of study time for each hour of class). Depending on your mathematical background, you may need to spend more or less study time. Attend class regularly, be on time, and budget your time to accommodate the workload.
- Ask questions. Mathematics is fascinating, but it can be confusing, too. Ask questions. If you aren't clear on something, there are likely others who are equally unclear on the topic.
- Communicate clearly. Effective written and oral communication indicates an intelligent mind. Clarity, proper format, spelling, and grammar are expected of every student.
- Use common sense. Cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarizing others' work, and turning in late assignments is unacceptable. Any infractions may result in a zero for the assignment, a failing course grade, and the possibility of disciplinary action by the university. I won't accept *anything* late unless you have written documentation from an appropriate source or have made prior arrangements with me. If you have a problem that prohibits you from turning something in on time, let me know ahead of time. In all instances, communicate with me so we can prevent problems.

Grades

Your grade in this class will be based on the following items:

Assessment Method	Value
Homework:	15%
Almost-weekly quizzes:	15%
Mid-term exams	20% each
Final Exam	30%

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

	A 100-93%	**A-** 92.9-90%
B+ 89.9-87%	**B** 86.9-83%	**B-** 82.9-80%
C+ 79.9-77%	**C** 76.9-73%	**C-** 72.9-70%
D+ 69.9-67%	**D** 66.9-63%	**D-** 62.9-60%
F 59.9% and below		

Explanation of Assignments and Activities

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given most Fridays at the beginning of class, with the exception of exam weeks. Quizzes will cover the material for the previous week. No make-up quizzes will be given, but to allow for unavoidable absences the lowest quiz score will be dropped. If you must miss a Friday class due to a school activity (e.g., a class field trip or university-sponsored athletic event), that quiz can be excused if this is requested *in advance* and you supply me with a note from the instructor or advisor. Quizzes will be excused only for school-related activities.

Exams: There will be two mid-term and one final exam. All exams will be cumulative over all material covered up to a given point. Make-up exams must be arranged ahead of time unless you can document an unexpected circumstance beyond your control that prevented you from taking the exam. For instance, in the case of illness, a doctor's note will be required. All make-up exams must be requested as early as possible. Exams requested more than 24 hours after the scheduled exam will be given only in extreme extenuating circumstances (e.g. hospitalization, jail, etc.)

The final exam is cumulative, and must be taken at the designated time.

Homework: Homework will be assigned at the end of most classes. It is expected that you will do the homework problems. To aid the battle against procrastination, questions about the previous day's homework, and only the previous day's homework, will be taken at the beginning of class each day. Of course, I will happily take any and all homework questions during office hours. Keeping up with the homework is one of the best things you can do to help yourself succeed in this course!

General Course Policies
Daily attendance is expected and considered necessary for success. If you need to miss class for some reason, you should try to contact your professor in advance. It is your responsibility to find out what was covered on days you were absent, either from a classmate or from your professor. You are responsible for any announcements made in class regarding homework, exams, and quizzes, whether or not you are present. Please bring your calculator to each class meeting.

All work handed in for the course must be written neatly, legibly, clearly, using correct mathematical notation, and with sufficient explanation. A good rule of thumb is to write your solution so that a classmate who knows roughly what's going on in the course but doesn't know how to do this particular problem can understand your solution. As a side benefit, this makes it much more likely that you will be able to understand your solution when you go back to study for exams or the final! The bottom line: for any written work handed in for the course, including lab write-ups, exams, and quizzes, **you must show your work**.

Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should give me a copy of their "Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments" from the Center for Disability Services as soon as possible so we can discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in class. Students without this form should contact the Center for Disability Services, Bouillon 205 or dssrecept@cwu.edu or 963-2171.