

Fall 2016
Math 265
Linear Algebra 1
Hertz 104, 12:00 - 12:50 M-Th

Instructor: Dr. Jim Bisgard

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and by appointment.

Course Goals: Math 265 is a first course in linear algebra. We will begin by studying the concrete problem of systems of linear equations. You will learn about Gaussian elimination, matrices and the connection between properties of matrices and solutions of systems of linear equations. We will also discuss some applications of matrices. Next, we will take a more abstract point of view, and learn about vector spaces, spans, linear independence and dimension, as well as their connection to matrices and solutions of systems of linear equations. The last topic we will cover will be eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

Required Text: Shores, Thomas S.; Applied Linear Algebra and Matrix Analysis, Springer Verlag, 2007.

We will cover most of Chapter 1, parts of Chapters 2 and 3, and finally skip to ahead to Chapter 5. If time permits, we may cover some sections of Chapter 4.

You will do a lot of writing in this class. Unlike calculus, there will rarely be long calculations with lots of algebra. That makes it important that you describe what you're doing to solve problems.

It is very important that you read the appropriate sections from the book before lecture. A good way to read a mathematics text is to have a separate notebook that you use when reading the book. When you've finished a paragraph in the book, try and write (in the separate notebook) a short (a few sentences) summary of what that paragraph says. In addition, put any questions about the reading in this notebook, and then ask about those questions during class.

1 Grades/Exams/Homework

Grades

Grades will be calculated using the following weighting system:

Homework: 5%;

Take Home Quizzes: 40%;

Exams: 55% total, broken up as follows: 15% for each mid-term and 25% for the final.

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

Quizzes

We will have a take-home quiz every week, except for those weeks when we have an exam.

Each quiz will be due at 2:00 pm two class days after being handed out. (So, a quiz handed out on Tuesday will be due at 2:00 pm on the following Thursday, while a quiz handed out on Wednesday will be due the following Monday at 2:00 p.m.) I encourage you to work with other students, but you should write up your solutions in your own words.

Homework

Almost every day in class, you will receive a few homework problems. **Problems assigned on a Tuesday or later will be due on the Thursday of the following week at 2:00**

pm. (For example, problems assigned on September 21, 22, 26 or 27 will all be due at 2:00 pm on Thursday, September 29.) Homework will mostly be graded on completion. This means I'll be most interested in the work you've done - if you just write down an answer, you won't receive any points. It is a good idea to work with other students from class. We won't have time to do many homework problems in class, so please feel free to ask during office hours. However, don't put off asking about homework until the day before it's due!

Late and Make-up Policy for Homework and Quizzes

Homework and quizzes are due at 2 pm on their due date. Assignments handed in after that time on their due date will lose 4 points immediately, and 4 more points for every 24 hours after. That means: if you hand in a quiz at 2:30 on its due date, you can earn at most 16 out of 20 on that quiz. If you hand in your quiz at 2:30 pm the day after it is due, you can earn at most 12 out of 20, since over 24 hours will have passed.

Exams

There will be three exams: two mid-terms and a final. The first mid-term will be on October 13, the second mid-term will be November 3, and the Final Exam will be on **Friday, December 9**. The Final Exam will be cumulative, and **CANNOT** be taken early! **DO NOT** plan on taking your final early. If you miss an exam, you can take a make-up, but only if you have proof of a compelling reason for having missed the exam. To get an make-up, you must have proof, and you must notify me before (if possible) or within one class day after the exam to get a make-up. I will not give make-ups for circumstances you know about ahead of time!

Expectation for Written Work and Office Hours

Your homework and exams should be written up neatly and legibly, using complete sentences, as appropriate. I also encourage you to come to my office hours to ask questions - but please bring your notes from class!

2 Important Dates

September 27 - Last Day for Add/Drop
October 13 - first mid-term exam
November 3 - second mid-term exam
November 4 - uncontested withdrawal deadline
December 9 - final exam

Central Washington University is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning, discuss your concerns with the instructor. Students with disabilities should contact Disability Services to discuss a range of options to removing barriers, including accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in Hogue 126. Call (509) 963-2214 or email ds@cwu.edu for more information.