

Mathematics MAT 331 : Linear Algebra
Fall 2004
MF 2:30 am - 3:45 pm, Room 204

Instructor: Dr. Brad Emmons
Office: DePerno Hall 121
Telephone: 792-3413 (Don't leave voicemail)
Office Hours: Monday and Fridays, 12:20 - 1:30 pm
Email: bemmons@utica.edu
Webpage: <http://websrv.utica.edu/faculty/bemmons/>

Course Materials

Elementary Linear Algebra (8th Edition) : Anton (required)

Introduction

MAT 331 is a course on Linear Algebra. Linear Algebra deals with two distinct, yet interconnected theories. One of the theories deals with matrix computations as a way of solving systems of equations. The other theory deal with abstract vector spaces. We will deal with both subjects in this course.

Throughout the course we will learn and use the Maple computer algebra system. Using Maple, we will work on exploratory laboratory exercises aimed at getting you to develop your own intuition about the way matrix algebra and vector spaces work.

Exams

There will be a midterm exam given during the semester, and a final cumulative exam. The exams will test your ability to work through some of the computations, as well as your ability to apply the techniques to certain applications. The midterm exam is scheduled for Friday, October 22, and will count for 25 percent of your final grade. The final exam will be held on Friday, December 17, at 4:00 p.m., and will count for 35 percent of your final grade. There will be no make-ups for missed exams. Please look over your schedule as soon as possible. If you see a potential conflict, inform me immediately.

Homework

Homework will be assigned daily at the end of each class, and will be due at the beginning of the next class. Homework will count for 40 percent of your final grade. Out of each assignment, I will select 3 or 4 problems to grade for 5 points each. There will also be 5 completion points on each assignment. To get 5 out of 5 completion points, the assignment must be written up NEATLY and thoroughly with complete solutions to all of the assigned problems. Late homework will not be graded, but you may still earn completion points on late assignments. The homework is designed to help you identify where you might have difficulties. If you encounter any trouble with an assignment or a concept, seek help!

Attendance

Attendance in MAT 331 is extremely important. Although there is no official attendance policy, note that if you are not in class on a particular day, I will not grade your homework assignment. I will also require that you be in class at 2:30 p.m. and no later.

Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on two main factors: homework and exams. The exams will be worth 60% of your final grade and the homework 40%. In addition to these factors, minor ethereal factors such attendance, class participation, attitude, and improvement over the course of the semester can also affect your grade. To determine your final grade, 90–100% = A, 80–89% = B, 70–79% = C, 60–69% = D, 59 and below = F, with the top two percents receiving a + and the bottom two percents receiving a –.

Calculators

The use of calculators will not be allowed on any quizzes or exams. None of the work will require any sophisticated computations. You may use a calculator when working on your homework to check your work. However, since will not be allowed to use it on the exam, I suggest you do as much work without your calculator as possible.

Important Dates

Monday, September 6 – Last Day to Drop/Add

Friday, October 1 – Exam I
Monday, October 11 – Fall Break (no class)
Tuesday, November 2 – General Election (VOTE!!!)
Friday, November 5 – Exam II
Friday, November 5 – Deadline for WD or P/F
Friday, December 10 – Last Day of Classes
Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12 – Study Day
Friday, December 17, 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. – Final Exam

Suggestions

Come to class with your homework assignment completed every day
Study for at least 30 minutes each day in addition to completing your homework assignment
Read the section we will be covering *before* we cover it in class
Do not fall behind!
Come to office hours to discuss homework and concepts. I am here to help!