

Math 2b, section 21

Linear Algebra

Fall 2017

Instructor: Rick Taylor

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Office Hours: In F31L at 10:45AM – 11:35AM Monday through Thursday, or by appointment.

Classes: The class meets Monday through Friday (except school holidays) September 25 through December 8, from 8:30 AM to 9:20 AM.

Student Learning Outcomes for the course:

Outcome 1: Construct and evaluate linear systems/models to solve application problems.

Outcome 2: Solve problems by deciding upon and applying appropriate algorithms/concepts from linear algebra.

Outcome 3: Apply theoretical principle of linear transformations, matrices, and vector spaces.

Textbook:

The text for this class is the fifth edition of David Lay's "Linear Algebra and its applications."

Calculator:

A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is recommended.

Final Exam:

The final exam for this class will be given on Wednesday, December 13, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM (as scheduled by the college). Taking the final exam is required to pass the class. If due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness or family emergency you are unable to take the final exam at the scheduled time, you will need to take an incomplete for the class and arrange a time to make it up.

Midterm Exams:

Midterm exams will be given in class on October 17 (Tuesday), November 2 (Thursday), and November 28 (Tuesday). Make-up midterms will not be given, but your final exam score can be used to substitute for up to two midterm scores.

Quizzes and Homework:

Homework will be assigned, but not collected. Quiz problems will be based on homework problems. Take-home quizzes may be given. Make-up quizzes will not be given, but midterm scores can be used to substitute for quiz scores on the same material.

Grading policy:

Your final grade for the course will be a weighted average of the scores from three midterms (20% each), a final exam (20%), and quizzes (20%). Your final exam score may be used to substitute for up to two lower midterm scores. Midterm scores can be used to substitute for quiz scores on the same material. This will be done automatically. All scores are computed as percentages, and your final letter grade will be computed as follows:

- A 90% - 100%
- A- 88% - 89%
- B+ 85% - 87%
- B 80% - 84%
- B- 78% - 79%
- C+ 75% - 77%
- C 68% - 74%
- D 50% - 67%
- F 0% - 49%

An F will also be given in the case one gets a 0 on the final exam.

Policy on dropping:

If you decide you no longer wish to take this class, it is your responsibility to go online and formally drop the class by the appropriate deadline, October 8 with a refund and no record, November 17 with a W. If you fail to do so, I will be unable to change your grade or drop you at a later date. The only exception to this rule is that a student who fails to come to class or to contact the instructor during the first week of the class will automatically be dropped from the class.

Policy on Academic Integrity:

If a student is found to have cheated on an exam, they will receive a 0 for that exam. If it is a midterm, they will not be able to substitute the final exam grade for that midterm.

Academic Help:

Mathematics is a challenging subject which takes time and effort to master. Of course students differ in their backgrounds, but in general you should expect to do a minimum of 10 hours of work per week reading the book, doing homework, and thinking about the material. This is in addition to the time you spend in class. If you find you are having difficulty with the material, it is important to address the situation quickly, as it's easy to fall behind. The tutorial center in S-43 offers both drop in tutoring for brief questions, as well as one on one sessions with a designated tutor up to two hours a week. In addition, I encourage all students to come to my office hours listed above. Often, I'm able to help students talking with them individually in a way that's not possible in a large lecture class.