

Mathematics 250:B1 Introductory Linear Algebra
Rutgers University, Summer 2003, First Session

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Office Hours: MT 12:45-1:45pm, W 8:30-9:30am

Section Webpage: <http://www.math.rutgers.edu/~hartke>, click on Teaching, then Math 250:B1.

Schedule: MTWTh 10:15-12:00pm, May 27 to July 3, 2003

Location: Scott Hall Room 116, College Avenue Campus

Text: *Elementary Linear Algebra: A Matrix Approach* by Spence, Insel, and Friedberg, published by Prentice-Hall, 2000. (ISBN 0-13-716722-9)

Description of the Course:

Linear Algebra is the study of matrices and vectors; of linear systems of equations and their solutions; of vector spaces and linear transformations of these spaces. The subject is very different than the material students have previously seen in calculus or pre-calculus classes. The level of the course is also different. The course is designed to not only teach students how to do computations about the aforementioned topics, but also how to handle abstract concepts. The main tool used by mathematicians when dealing with abstract concepts is the *proof*. As such, an emphasis will be made during the course on students being able to prove statements about the concepts they are learning. By the end of the course, students should feel comfortable with doing both computations and proofs.

Determination of Course Grade:

<i>exam</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>percentage</i>
First written midterm exam	June 10	20%
Second written midterm exam	June 24	20%
In-class quizzes	periodically	20%
Written final exam	July 3, 10:15am- 1:15pm	40%

The two midterms will be 80-minute, closed-book written exams given in class. New material will be presented during the first 25 minutes of class on the days that the midterms are given. The final exam is a **3-hour**, closed-book that will be given in the usual classroom. The final will begin at 10:15am and end at 1:15pm. Quizzes will be given periodically throughout the semester and may be unannounced. The quizzes will be short, usually involving one question that is either the same or very similar to one of the suggested homework problems from the previous class's material. A sufficient number of quizzes should be given during the course so that some may be dropped when calculating the final grade.

A list of suggested homework problems for each section will be distributed. Even though homework is not for credit, students are strongly encouraged to review the problems to ensure they have understood the material in that section. Discussion with other students is a good way to deepen this understanding. If a student is having difficulty with a concept or problem, she or he should also ask questions during the lecture, speak with the instructor after a lecture, or seek help during the instructor's office hours.

Students should discuss with the instructor any class conflicts or other problems as soon as possible. Makeups for missed midterms and the final exam will only be allowed according to University policy. This usually requires a letter from the student's dean's office. No makeup quizzes will be given.

All students are expected to be aware of and abide by the University's policies on student conduct and academic integrity and honesty. Any violation of these policies will be reported to the appropriate University officials.