Instructor: Peter Polacik, Office: Vincent Hall 226
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Office hours: Monday and Friday 2:45-3:45, Wednesday 2:30-3:15, otherwise by appointment.
(No office hours on 9/6 and 9/11; other changes to the schedule will be announced on the class web page.)


Prerequisites: 2243 or 2373 or 2573. Familiarity with basic operations with vectors and matrices, and some acquaintance with determinants and eigenvalues will be assumed.

Text and material: O. Bretscher, Linear algebra with applications, 5th edition. The course will cover Chapters 1-8, and selected material from Chapter 9.

Course work: The class time will be devoted to lectures where you should gain an understanding of basic concepts and methods, realize connections between various parts of linear algebra, and eventually build a global picture of linear algebra. You will broaden your knowledge and develop solving routines out of class: you are expected to carefully study the text and solve a good deal of selected exercises. Typically, there will be one lecture devoted to each section (longer sections will be covered by two lectures), and I will count on your reading for reviewing and sometimes extending the material covered by lectures. Preliminary advanced reading is encouraged. Assigned homework is the minimum you can do for your practice. The textbook offers a lot more problems from which you can choose to suit your needs.

Please do not use your cell phone during lectures, not even for texting. It is disrespectful and disruptive.

Assignments: Homework assignments will be posted on my web page and will usually be collected Friday. Two homeworks (two worst grades or missed homeworks) will be dropped at the end. This should be more than enough for everybody to cover unexpected circumstances and therefore NO late homework will be accepted. If you cannot come to class, you may submit your homework early.

You may discuss homework problems with other students, however, you are supposed to work out and write down the solutions yourself. It is my understanding that if you submit a correct solution, you are able to reproduce if asked to. Questions or objections to grading must be brought up within a week after the graded work is handed out in class.

Instructions for writing solutions: Please write complete solutions clearly on letter-size sheets, one-sided. Print your first and last name legibly on each assignment.

Exams and grading policy: There will be two one-hour exams covering appropriate parts of the material and a comprehensive final exam covering all the material. We will do a review in class before each exam. No books or notes are allowed at one-hour exams. At the final, you may use one letter-size sheet (one side only) of self-prepared notes (they must be hand-written originals, no copies). No other notes are allowed. Scientific calculators are allowed at all exams, but programmable, graphical or multi-line display calculators are not allowed. Make-up exams are discouraged, but can be given for legitimate reasons such as illness documented by medical excuse or participation at University sponsored events. Whenever possible, you should inform me beforehand if you have to miss an exam. Difficulty and the scope of the material covered may be different for make-up exams to balance possible advantages gained by taking an exam out of schedule.

Grading scheme: homework 10%, 2 midterm exams 55% (% 27.5% each), final 35%

Exam dates: October 18 (Wednesday), November 20 (Monday)
Final: 1:30-3:30, December 18 (Monday)

Incomplete will only be assigned at extraordinary circumstances (such as hospitalization), and only if a major part of the class work has been completed. Academic dishonesty in any portion of the course shall be grounds for awarding a grade of F or N for the entire course.