MATH 355: LINEAR ALGEBRA - SUMMER 2014 SESSION 3

Course Information

Instructor: Katherine Vance
Office: Herman Brown 39
Email: kvance@rice.edu
Office Hours: To be decided on the first day of class
Class Meeting Time: MTWRF 10:30AM-12:00PM
Classroom: AEL B209
Course Website: http://math.rice.edu/~kp9

Text

Linear Algebra with Applications, by Steven J. Leon, 8th edition. We will cover Chapters 1-7 of the printed text, plus the online Chapter 9.

Objectives

Topics to be covered include solutions to systems of linear equations, linear transformations and matrices, determinants, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, inner product spaces, quadratic forms, and Jordan canonical form. Additionally, students will gain experience in formulating mathematical arguments.

Grades

Grades will be based on written homeworks, two midterm exams, the final exam, and class participation.

Exam 1 20%
Exam 2 20%
Final Exam 30%
Homework Correctness 20%
Homework Exposition 5%
Participation (and Attendance) 5%
Exams

There will be two midterm exams and a scheduled comprehensive final exam. The midterm exams will be in class on Thursday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 15. The final exam will take place on the last day of class, Friday, July 25, and will likely be longer than the normal class period.

The exams will consist of a mix of different types of questions, including True/False, multiple choice, and short answer/definitions, but will be heavily weighted toward traditional “solve and show your work” type computations.

You may use a four-function or scientific calculator on the exams, but you must provide it yourself - I will not have any extras to loan out. Your calculator must be an actual calculator - you may not use a graphing calculator or a tablet or smartphone calculator app.

Homework

Written homework will be due each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday that the class meets. Homework solutions must be legible and well organized, and where necessary your steps must be clearly explained. Your homework grade will consist of two scores: one for correctness and one for exposition.

You are encouraged to collaborate with other students in the class to solve the problems, but your write-up must be your own individual work. Unless explicitly specified in the assignment, you may not use computer programs or symbolic calculators to find your answers.

I will not accept late homework for any reason.

There will be an optional but strongly recommended extra credit review assignment due at the start of each of the three exams.

Participation & Attendance

My goal is to foster an interactive class environment. To this end you’re required to contribute by responding to questions, voicing confusion, discussing problems, and taking part in group work. Students are expected to be considerate during class discussions. The best way to achieve a high participation grade is to make your voice heard every class.

I expect students to attend every class and arrive on time. It is your responsibility to keep informed of announcements made in class. Poor attendance affecting your ability to participate regularly will also be considered when assigning participation grades.

Disability Support

If you have a documented disability that will affect your work in this class, please contact me within the first week to discuss accommodations. Students with disabilities will also need to contact disability support services.