Math 355: Linear Algebra  

Instructor: Mr Diego Vela  
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Lecture Times: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Classroom: HBH 427

Class Webpage: Look for MATH 355 001 Su13 on OWL-Space.

Textbook:  
The required text book is "Introduction to Linear Algebra" 4th edition by Gilbert Strang.

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.

Homework:  
There will be weekly homework assignments. Each homework assignment will be posted on to the “Assignments” section of OWL-Space.

Homework assignments are not pledged, and I encourage you to work together and exchange ideas on homework problems. However, your final homework write-ups should be done independently and should reflect your own understanding of the material.

Your homework assignments will not be graded, but you should focus on both on correctness and clarity of solutions/arguments. For a problem solution, you should:

- Briefly state the goal of the problem
- Justify your steps as necessary
- Present your solution in a neat, clear, and easy-to-read format

In addition, you must follow these homework guidelines:

- Write your name in the upper right corner of the front page
- Below your name, write the the assignment number (e.g. “HW 3”)  
- Write solutions to problems in the same order as they appear in the textbook
- Staple together the pages in the correct order

Exams:  
There will be two midterm exams and one final exam. The dates are subject to change. The final will be no later than the given date:

Midterm Exam 1: Sunday, May 19 (week 1)  
Midterm Exam 2: Sunday, May 26 (week 2)  
Final Exam: Sunday June 2

Exams will be pledged, and the use of books, notes, or calculators is not allowed. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the case of documented medical emergencies (and you must contact me as soon as possible regarding such a situation). If the exam dates conflict with a holiday you observe, please let me know during the first day of classes.

Grades:
Your grade will be computed via the following scheme:

\[ 20\% \text{ Midterm 1} + 30\% \text{ Midterm 2} + 50\% \text{ Final Exam} \]

**Expectations:**
I expect that you attend every lecture and arrive on time. It is also your responsibility to stay informed of announcements, adjustments to the syllabus, or policy changes made during scheduled classes (and not all announcements will necessarily be posted online).

In a math lecture, what’s most important is that you look for the big picture and stay attuned to the lecturer’s advice about what’s important and what isn’t. I don’t necessarily expect you to follow every step of the lecture, but I do expect you to study on your own at home to fill in the gaps. Nonetheless, attending lectures is a crucial component to understanding the material, while skipping them puts you at a real disadvantage.

I encourage you to make use of your classmates and office hours whenever you are struggling with the material. Furthermore, you should seek help as questions arise, rather than waiting until an exam is looming or until you have lots of questions.

**Honor Code:**
You should be familiar with the Rice University Honor Code (the Handbook can be found at [http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/](http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/)). Both midterm exams and the final exam will be pledged.

**Disability Support:**
Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first day of class. All such discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities will also need to contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.

**Disclaimer:**
I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus and to course policies during the semester. Such changes will be announced in lecture when they are made.