Linear Algebra

Math 300 Fall 2004
Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Hundley
OFFICE: Olin 234
OFFICE HOURS: Tues, Thurs, Fri after 1:30PM.
   You may also schedule other times to meet- Send an email or meet with me after class.
OFFICE PHONE: 527-5151
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1. **Text:** Linear Algebra and its Applications, by David C. Lay, **Third Edition** (blue cover).

2. **Technology:** You are allowed to use calculators on your homework, where appropriate. Calculators will *not* be allowed on Exams, however. This is (1) to ensure that points are not based on what kind of calculator you own, and (2) because one goal of the course is that you understand basic computations in linear algebra.

   We will also be introducing Matlab (short for Matrix Laboratory) software. This is state-of-the-art software that is used extensively in academia and industry, so it is useful to learn it and experiment with the ideas of linear algebra. The software is only available on the Mathematics Department computer lab, so you'll need an account. We'll spend Friday of our first week in the lab.

3. **Grading Criteria.**

   (a) HOMEWORK: Homework will be due each Thursday (See the calendar for details- it won't be collected on some Thursdays) covering the previous week's work. This will leave Tuesday to answer any last minutes questions you have from the previous week. You may ask questions about the homework on any day *except the day that it is due.* I will not be grading all of the homework problems. I will choose several at random from the assigned list.

   Solutions to your homework should:

   - be neatly written out.
   - include a statement of the problem.
   - be written in complete sentences.

   Where appropriate, you should end the problem with a statement of the solution (or, if its a straightforward computation, circle your answer). As a rule of thumb, you should be able to pick up your paper and follow your work from start to finish without having to refer to the text.

   Your overall Homework score will account for 15% of the overall grade.

   (b) EXAMS. There will be **evening** exams that will be held on **Tuesday, Oct. 5th** and **Tuesday, November 9th** starting at 7:00PM. Although the exams are intended to be finished in 1 hour, you will have the option of staying until 8:30PM. On exam days, we will not be meeting at the regularly scheduled time. Each of these exams will account for 25% of the overall grade, and there will be a two-part final that will account for 30%.

   (c) QUIZZES: At the beginning of each session, we will have a short (1-5 minute) quiz over the previous day's material. The quiz will be worth one point, with no partial credit. Be sure to be on time every day! These quizzes cannot be made up. I will drop the three lowest scores, and will normally scale the overall scores so that the median score is 85%. Quizzes will total 5% of your overall grade.

   The daily quizzes may be stopped early at some point in the course (depending on how we are coming along).

   Grading is done on a standard scale:

   90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, 59 and below=F

   I will use the plus/minus grading only sparingly in those borderline cases.

4. **Collaboration:** You are encouraged to discuss homework assignments with other students and you should form study groups. However, you need to be sure that you understand the homework problems, as they will be the basis for the quizzes and exams.

5. **Workload:** As a general rule of thumb you should expect to spend at least two hours outside of class studying for every hour in class.

6. **Assistance:** I encourage you to come see me. If you can't make it during office hours, either email me if you have short questions, or let me know when you would like to meet.

7. **Health problems.** If you're having to miss class due to health problems, you need to get in touch with me as soon as possible, either by phone or email. If you are ill on the day of an exam, we can work out other arrangements for you **only** if you receive verification from a health professional (i.e., go to the clinic and get checked out). You can then have the Dean of Student's office send a message to that effect to me- I don't need to know any details, just that you have gone through the procedures. This includes mental health problems, as well as chronic conditions.

8. **Other Absences.** If you need to miss class due to other legitimate reasons (religious holidays, sports, etc), please let me know ahead of time so that we can work around your schedule.

9. **Learning Disabilities.** If you have a learning disability, we can make the proper arrangements for you. All arrangements need to go through the office of Academic Resources (Clare Carson, Mem 205) *prior* to taking an exam. (This also applies generally: If you're having academic difficulties, see the people at Academic Resources!)

10. **Academic Honesty**. Academic standards will be *strictly* adhered to as outlined in your student handbook. This means that cheating will not be tolerated. Looking at another student's exam or quiz (whether or not you mean to copy answers) while taking it will be considered cheating. Students caught cheating will fail the exam or quiz, and the incident will be referred to the Dean of Students, as outlined in your student handbook.

11. Linear algebra is really the gateway to applied mathematics- its used whenever you have more than one thing varying (which is most of the time!) Although we can't spend enough time working on applications, they are spread throughout the book- Take some time and read through them. Most of all, work hard, and have fun!