COURSE DESCRIPTION
LINEAR ALGEBRA
MA 434/534 2C, FALL 2011

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Course Instructor: Dr. Logan Hoehn
Office: CH 495A
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Office Hours: TR 3:15-4:15pm, or by appointment

Meeting times: TR 11:00am–12:15pm
Meeting location: BEC 211
Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in MA 126 or equivalent
Credits: 3 semester hours

Important dates:
First day of classes: Tuesday, August 16, 2011.
Fall Break: October 13 - October 16
Last day to withdraw: Friday, October 28, 2011.
Last day of classes: Monday, December 5, 2011.

Major exams: (Dates are tentative) Test 1: Tuesday, September 13, 2011; Test 2: Thursday, October 20, 2011; Test 3: Tuesday, November 22, 2011.
Final exam: Thursday, December 8, 10:45am–1:15pm; room to be announced.

Course policies:
• Please make sure that you are able to receive e-mail through your Blazer-ID account. Official course announcements may be sent to that address.
• If you wish to request a disability accommodation please contact DSS at 934-4205 or at dss@uab.edu.
• If a test is missed due to a serious verifiable circumstance or official university business, the test grade will be replaced with the properly rescaled final exam score. You have to advise the instructor of such circumstances at the earliest possibility.
• No calculators will be allowed during any of the tests or quizzes.
• No books or notes will be allowed during any of the tests or quizzes.
Methods of teaching and learning:
- 30 class meetings of 75 minutes consisting of lectures and discussions of examples and homework problems. Time for three in-class tests is included.
- Homework, as well as in-class quizzes (not necessarily announced) will be given to help students practice material and prepare for exams.
- Students are expected to undertake at least 6 hours of private study and homework per week.

Topics of the course:
- Systems of linear equations, matrices and matrix algebra;
- Vector spaces, linear independence, basis;
- Linear transformations;
- Determinants;
- Eigenvalues and eigenvectors;
- Logic, methods of proof.

The understanding of a concept is demonstrated by an ability to solve pertinent problems related to that concept.

Assessment procedures:
- Student achievement will be assessed by the following measures:
  - Homework and in-class quizzes, contributing 15% total to the course average. Problems on tests are modeled after homework & quiz problems. Staying on top of homework is therefore extremely important.
  - Three 75-minute in-class tests. Two best tests contribute 25% each to the course average.
  - A 150-minute comprehensive final examination. The final contributes 35% to the course average.
- Your course performance is the maximum of your course average and your final exam grade, each being a number between 0 and 100.
- Your final grade is determined according to the following table:
  | Course performance: | 88-100 | 75-87 | 62-74 | 50-61 | below 50 |
  | Final Grade:         | A      | B     | C     | D     | F       |
Tips:
- Help is available in the Math Learning Lab (HNB 202), if you can’t find me.
- By working steadily and regularly, you will increase your chances to succeed in this course.
- Remember, being a full-time student is a full-time job.