

MATHEMATICS 3144 – FALL SEMESTER, 2009
Index Number 93983, Tues. - Thurs. 9:30 - 10:45 McBryde 210
POLICY STATEMENT

Instructor: Kenneth B. Hannsgen, 556 McBryde, Phone 231-8280. Course information and materials will be posted on Scholar. Office hours are Wednesday 1:30 to 4:00 (subject to change). I will make appointments in person or by e-mail if you cannot see me during the regular hours. In addition, I will respond to questions and suggestions sent via e-mail to: hannsgen@math.vt.edu

Any student with special needs, circumstances, or disabilities should meet with me as soon as possible.

Course Objectives: You will learn the basic abstract structures and methods of linear algebra. Emphasis will be on theory, rather than computation, but all topics will be illustrated with examples.

Prerequisites: Math 3034 or 3434.

Topical Contents and Text: *Linear Algebra*, Fourth Edition, by Stephen H. Friedberg, A. J. Insel, and L.E. Spence, Addison Wesley, 2002. We will cover Chapters 1, 2, and 3 and selected topics from other chapters if time permits.

Evaluation and Grading: Your letter grade will be based on your final average, which will be computed as follows:

Homework	15%
Your higher midterm test score	30%
Your lower midterm test score	20%
Final Exam (Friday, December 11, 7:45 a.m.)	35%

Final averages of 90%, 80% and 70% will guarantee you a grade no lower than A-, B- and C-, respectively.

Homework: Homework assignments will be made in class, usually at least one week before the due date.

Each homework assignment will be worth 3 points. Grading criteria will include correctness, completeness and clarity of presentation for all problems in the assignment. You should use complete sentences and your writing should be readily legible. I will grade all problems but will normally mark in detail only a subset of them. You do not have to get all problems in an assignment correct in order to get the full 3 points, but the write-ups must be clear and complete.

- Homework tips:
1. Do all parts of all problems. If you can't complete the problem, show what you tried.
 2. Explain your answers, using complete sentences.
 3. Write legibly and arrange the work clearly. Do not turn in scratch work.

Written homework is **late** after I collect it in class; this includes papers I find in my mailbox or under my office door after class. Late homework counts as a zero. (I will make individual arrangements if, e.g., you have a documented illness that runs for an extended period. If you will be out of town, arrangements satisfactory to me must be made ahead of time.)

Tests: There will be two 75-minute tests. If you miss a test because of an excused absence, I will schedule a makeup test, which may be a little harder than the original test. Excused absences include medical problems and emergencies. You must obtain my explicit approval for the excuse; I expect you to do this BEFORE the test if at all possible, since approval is not automatic. You will be required to document the excuse, but I can approve the excuse by e-mail, subject to later documentation.

The comprehensive **final exam** takes place in our regular classroom on Friday, December 11, at 7:45 a.m.

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Honor System Policies: The Virginia Tech Honor Code applies to all graded work in this course. You are responsible for knowing the general requirements of the Code and for consulting with your teacher, if necessary, to ensure that you understand exactly how the Honor Code applies to each piece of graded work.

The inclusion in an assignment of work (from any source) done by someone whose name does not appear on the assignment, or the inclusion or the reproduction (by any means) of such work is a violation of the Honor Code unless the inclusion is accompanied by a full citation identifying the source and this inclusion is used in a way explicitly authorized by the teacher.

Consistent with the above, you may consult books and notes for homework, and you may discuss homework assignments with other students in this class, or with me. You may work together with one other student from this class on any homework assignment, but if there is substantial collaboration you should make a note of this on the paper; you will not lose credit for doing this. Copying a solution from any source is prohibited. The assignment you hand in must be the product of your own understanding of the material.

You are permitted to use a scientific or graphing calculator on the tests, and your calculator can be capable of row-reducing a matrix. Cell phones and similar devices must be turned off and put away during all classes, including tests.

General: I reserve the option of modifying these policies as the course develops. You are responsible for all announcements in class, even on days when you are absent.

From the MATH DEPT: If you are not on the class roll that comes out after the last add date, immediately check your schedule at a terminal. For no foreseeable reason will you be allowed to stay in the wrong section or to drop a section for which you are actually enrolled after the last drop date. By simply attending a section you will not be placed on its roll.