MATH2114 - Introduction to Linear Algebra

SECTION 20261, SPRING 2016

Professor: Jeremy Wong

Contact information: e-mail: jwong28@vt.edu
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Telephone: 231-8302
Office Hours: currently, by appointment (with additional hours to be announced later)

Class meetings: Monday & Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m. in Randolph Hall, Room 331

Course Webpages: https://www.math.vt.edu/courses/math2114
https://www.scholar.vt.edu/

Textbook: Linear Algebra and its applications, 5th edition by David Lay et al, plus MyMathLab Access

Course Information:
This is a challenging three credit course covering important topics in linear algebra, including: systems of linear equations, vector and matrix operations, linear independence, bases, orthonormal bases, rank, linear transformations, determinants, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, and diagonalization.
We plan to cover these sections: § 1.1–1.5, 1.7–1.9, 2.1–2.3, 2.8–2.9, 3.1–3.3, 5.1–5.3, 5.5, 5.6, 6.1–6.5.

Prerequisite: Math 1226 or a grade of B or better in Math 1225.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written work:</th>
<th>10%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online homework:</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Tests (20% each):</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination:</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100%</td>
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The standard decapercentile scale will apply (e.g., A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F: <60).
Percentages of at least 90, 80, 70, 60 guarantee grades of at least A-, B-, C-, D- respectively.

Written work:
Weekly written homework from the textbook will be assigned and posted on the course web page. Although you can (and are encouraged to) discuss homework with other students, you should write it up by yourself. It is important to do it because it will help you understand the material, and test problems may be similar to homework problems. The lowest homework assignment grade will be dropped.
Some of the written work will be done in class, in group work.

Online homework:
Online homework will be assigned most weeks via MyMathLab (http://www.mymathlab.com). This software is bundled with the textbook. To register, you will need a code from the publisher and this MyMathLab course id: wong05187 Further instructions for registering, as well as due dates, will be posted on Scholar site.
You may attempt an assignment in MyMathLab an unlimited number of times before the due date until you have achieved the score you want on the assignment.

Tests:
There will be 3 term tests before the final exam (closed book and notes). Calculators will not be allowed on exams, nor will they be necessary. The term tests are tentatively scheduled for the following days
First term test: Feb. 17 (Wednesday)
Second term test: Mar. 28 (Monday)
Third term test: Apr. 20 (Wednesday)
Final Exam: Friday, May 6, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The comprehensive final examination has two parts: one hour of multiple choice questions, and one hour of free-form response questions.

A student with conflicting examinations, or with more than two officially scheduled examinations in twenty-four hours may reschedule an examination with permission sought by the student from the student’s college dean no later than 3 weeks prior to the start of Final Examinations and by arrangement with the instructor.

Any student with special needs or circumstances should feel free to meet with me during office hours or to schedule an appointment early in the semester.

Attendance Policy:
Daily attendance is strongly suggested. Roll may be taken periodically, and is used only to favorably weigh those who at the end of the course have borderline grades.

Missed work: In general, there will be no make-up tests, and late homework may be deducted. If you miss one of the in-class tests for a legitimate reason, your grade will be determined by the remaining in-class tests, the homework, and the final exam. A test missed for no reason will be counted as a score of 0.

Students missing any test should submit as soon as possible the proper documents justifying the absence. The value of a properly justified missed homework (beyond the ones dropped) or test will be added to the value of the final exam. But under no circumstances will the final examination be allowed to exceed 65% of the total course grade.

Academic code: All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. See http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu. Collaboration with your peers on homework and studying is encouraged, however.

Tutorials and Additional Help:
The Math Emporium offers free tutoring. For more information, please go to the Emporium located in the University Mall at 801 University City Blvd., visit http://www.emporium.vt.edu, or call (540) 231-2220.
Perhaps the best source of help, though, is my office hours, which are devoted to helping you.