

Math 308 A & C: Linear Algebra: James King

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Office Hours: Mon 1-2, Wed 9:40 – 10:15 and by appointment

Class Webpage (up by Friday): www.math.washington.edu/~king/coursedir/m308a06/

Class email list: Email from this list will be sent to your “u” email address. Be sure that you read this email account or have it forwarded to an account that you do read regularly.

Textbook: *Introduction to Linear Algebra* by Johnson, Riess, Arnold

The course will cover most of Chapters 1-4. A detailed syllabus will be linked to the website. *Important!* Chapter 2 contains material on vectors in 2-space and 3-space that was covered in Math 126 (a prerequisite), so you will be expected to review this.

- Reading assignment for first 3 classes: Sections 1.1 – 1.4.

Tests: There will be two midterms and a final. There will also be a few short quizzes (announced in advance) and frequent short assessments (not announced in advance). The latter are mostly for me to get a sense of how the class is doing, but for students who are present and successful on the assessments, a small number of points will be awarded.

Homework: Like all math courses, a linear algebra course is not a spectator event. You will need to develop skills on routine procedures and you will also need to wrestle with some challenging math concepts. There will be homework for both aspects of the course, assigned about once a week. Some will be assigned to study on a daily basis, but assignments to turn in will be due on Wednesdays.

- **Practice exercises:** These will be relatively straightforward problems conceptually, sometimes assigned from the odd problems with answers in the back. Some will be turned in, and you will get credit for work shown (not just the answers!). Others will be spot-checked by the in-class assessments.
- **Problems:** These will either pose a more substantial conceptual challenge or a more involved computation. These will be fewer and count more.

Technology: Although some work must be done by hand, for comprehension, you will find it helpful to have the capacity to manipulate matrices and solve linear equations with technological help, either with a calculator or with software such as Matlab. (The software is available in computer labs on campus.) For some tests, calculators will be allowed but for some not.

Assignment for Week 1:

Study for Fri 9/29 (NOT to turn in): Section 1.1, Problems 1-33. This does not mean that you should do all the problems. But you should spend an hour going through the problems. If you are sure you understand one section, go on to the next. Spend time on the ones that you are less sure of. Pay special attention to problems 15-20.

Study for Mon, 10/2 (NOT to turn in): Section 1.2, Problems 1-40. Same instructions.

Study for Wed, 10/4 (NOT to turn in): Section 1.3, Problems 7-22. Same instructions.

Wed, 10/4 (YES turn in): 1.1: Prob 38; 1.2: Probs 49, 50; 1.3: Probs 2, 4, 24 (by hand),