

MATH 308-L: LINEAR ALGEBRA W/ APPLICATIONS, SPRING 2017

Instructor: Dr. Jonah Ostroff, Padelford C-548, ostroff@uw.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION. This is an introduction to linear algebra. We will cover systems of linear equations, vector spaces, matrices, subspaces, orthogonality, least squares, eigenvalues, eigenvectors, and applications.

CLASS MEETINGS. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1:30 PM – 2:20 PM, Condon Hall room 115.

TEXTBOOK. *Linear Algebra with Applications*, by Jeffrey Holt. You may buy a hard copy from the bookstore, or purchase an electronic version with your WebAssign code. If you don't usually read math textbooks and you prefer to learn from lecture, you can probably get away with that too.

GRADES. Your grade in the course will be based on the following:

10% Homework

15% Quizzes

20% Lower Midterm Score

25% Higher Midterm Score

30% Final

LECTURES. Lectures are held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. You should probably come to class! But I don't take attendance, so if you need to miss a lecture, you don't specifically need permission to do so. PDF slides of everything I write in lecture will be posted to the course website after each class, but it's hard to learn just from those.

HOMEWORK. Homework will be conducted through WebAssign. Hooray! If you're enrolled in the course, you can access the homework by logging in at

<https://www.webassign.net/washington/login.html>

If you've taken a 100-level math class at UW, then you know the deal: log in to see your current assignments, then type your solutions in the appropriate boxes. When we start working with matrices you might see some new features of the WebAssign interface, but otherwise it should be pretty straightforward. If you're new to WebAssign, see my WebAssign Advice on the course website to learn about common errors you should avoid.

Homework assignments will usually be due at 11:00 PM on Thursdays, generally covering the chapters from the previous week's lectures. Assignments will usually be posted Tuesday morning, nine days before they are due. A WebAssign average of 90% or above is considered perfect, so don't sweat it if you lose a bunch of points for silly reasons early on.

WebAssign access is free for the first two weeks of the quarter, but eventually you'll need to buy a WebAssign access code. You can get normal WebAssign access for \$50, or you can get WebAssign access with an eBook for \$85.

QUIZZES. Most Fridays, there will be a short quiz at the start of class. The material covered on the quiz will be the same as the material from the homework due the night before. Notes and calculators are *not* allowed on quizzes. (And if you find yourself needing a calculator, you've probably made a mistake.)

Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

EXAMS. There will be two midterms and one final:

- Midterm 1: Wednesday, April 19th (in class).
- Midterm 2: Wednesday, May 17th (in class).
- Final Exam: Monday, June 5th, 2:30–4:20 PM (in our usual classroom).

You may use a *scientific* calculator on exams (although you shouldn't need one) and a double-sided handwritten note sheet. You may *not* use a graphing calculator, or any calculator that can solve systems of equations.

Makeup exams will not be given. If you have a *compelling* and *well-documented* reason for missing a test, talk to me about it.

OFFICE HOURS. I'm holding office hours three times each week in Padelford C-548:

Mondays, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Tuesdays, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Thursdays, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

These are times when you can show up to my office without an appointment to ask questions. If you'd like to meet at some other time, I might be available too. Just send me an email to set something up.

WEBSITE. We have a website! It's pretty sparse, and doesn't contain much more than what you see here, but I'll probably post more to it as the quarter progresses:

www.math.washington.edu/~ostroff/courses/2017/math308-spr17

There's also a class discussion forum on Piazza:

piazza.com/washington/spring2017/math308lm

This is a great place to ask questions about the material, so please use it!

ACADEMIC HONESTY. I take cheating very seriously, and will report any instances to the department of Community Standards and Student Conduct.

CATS. I have two cats, Gomba and Fungo. They are both excellent.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206-543-6450/V, 206-543-6452/TTY, 206-685-7264 (FAX), or dso@u.washington.edu.