Math 300 Linear Algebra, Spring 2019

Basic Info:
Meeting Times/Locations
  • Section 0001: MWF   Roop Hall 212,   12:20-1:10
Instructor: Dr. Joshua Ducey
Email: duceyje@jmu.edu
Website: `http://educ.jmu.edu/~duceyje`
Office Location: Roop 339
Office Hours:

  • Monday   11:15–12:05
  • Wednesday   10:10–11:00
  • Thursday   12:30-1:45
  • By appointment

Book: Introduction to Linear Algebra by Gilbert Strang, 5th Ed.
Course Content:

We will cover topics in linear algebra from the first 7 chapters of the text, with perhaps some additional material if time permits.

Homework:
I will assign homework frequently. Your homework grade will primarily come from online homework sets (Webwork) and quizzes given in class. Anything else I grade you on that is not a test will be part of your homework grade. I will assign problems from your book that I will not collect; it is important that you put major effort into solving all of these as your tests and quizzes will be of a similar nature as these problems.

Board Problems:
I will sometimes ask a student to solve a problem in front of the class. The student is chosen randomly but the problem is given out ahead of time. These problems are starred (*) in the homework list. Your preparation and performance on these problems can influence your homework grade.

Tests:
There will be three exams this semester: two in-class tests and a cumulative final exam.

Project:
There will be a "group project," including presentations to the class near the end of the semester. Details will be announced in class.

Some Tips For Success:
- **Take the homework very seriously.** Consistent, regular, hard work on the homework problems is absolutely the best thing you can do to succeed in this class. Slate out time to do all of the problems assigned, not just the ones that are collected.
- Don't let yourself fall behind! If you feel like you are struggling, make time to see me immediately. This is a transition or gateway course to much higher level mathematics than you may have seen before. if you let things slide it may become impossible for you to catch up.
- Read the book carefully, with a pencil and paper nearby. The author has a pretty unique style that is energetic and easy to read. Take advantage of this.
- Come to class each day. Caffeinate yourself if necessary.
- Linear algebra is some of the most useful (and beautiful) mathematics that you can learn. The more time you spend thinking about linear algebra, discussing it with your classmates, the better you will do in this course. Make the material your own! Have a favorite matrix, application, etc.

Getting Help:
You are encouraged to work on homework with your classmates. However, anything that you turn in to me must be written up independently and in your own words. My office hours are fixed times when I will be in my office to help you, but you can also make an appointment to see me at a different time (just email me).

Evaluation:
Homework: 25%
Tests: 40%
Project: 5%
Cumulative Final Exam: 30%

Grade Scale:
$[90 - 100]$ A- to A
$[80 - 90)$ B- to B+
$[70 - 80)$ C- to C+
$[60 - 70)$ D- to D+
$[0 - 60)$ F

Final Exam Time:
- Section 0001:   Wednesday 5/01/2019,   10:30–12:30

General University Policy: www.jmu.edu/syllabus

MATH 300. Linear Algebra

3 credits. *offered on demand* Vector Spaces, linear transformations, matrices, determinants, systems of linear equations, and eigenvalues and eigenvectors. *Prerequisite or corequisite: MATH 237 or permission of instructor.*